

#2

JASON PELL • EMILIO UTRERA

MATURE  
**BAD**  
**BUG**

# FLICKERING LIGHTS







# FLICKERING LIGHTS

WRITTEN BY JASON PELL

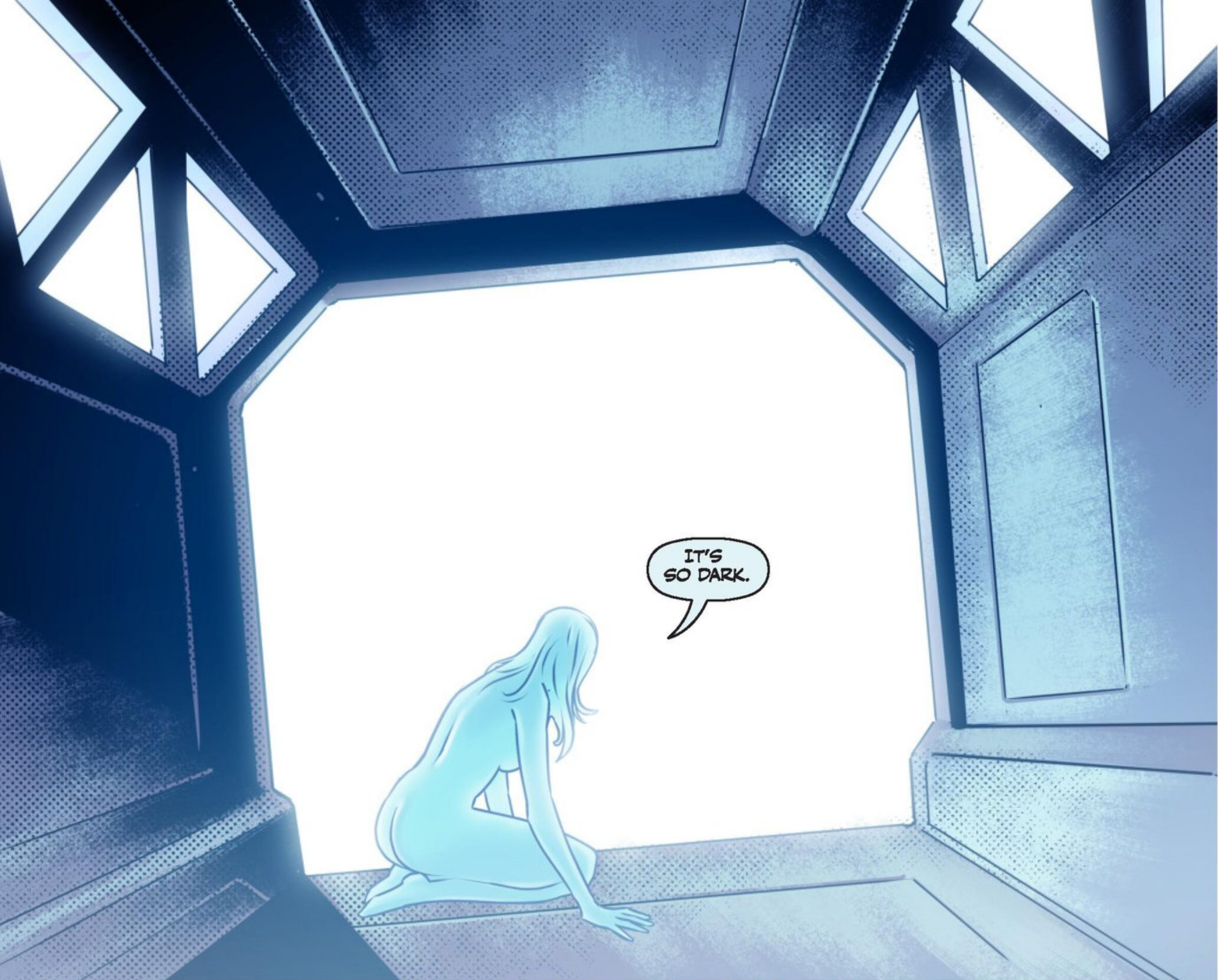
ART BY EMILIO UTREDA

EDITED BY JOHN MACLEOD

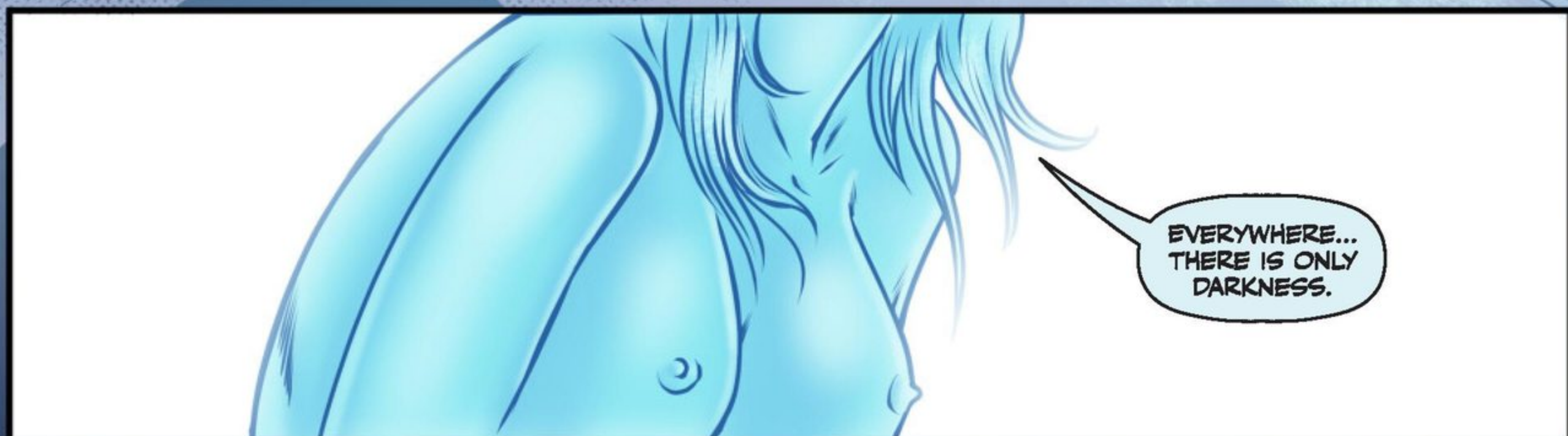
PRODUCED BY MIKE TENER

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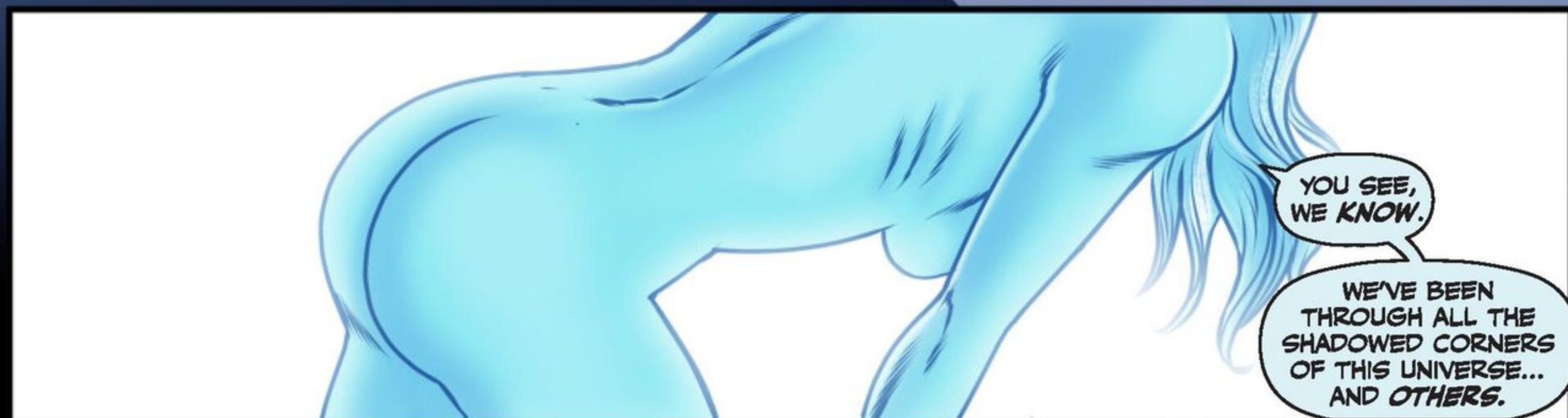




IT'S  
SO DARK.



EVERYWHERE...  
THERE IS ONLY  
DARKNESS.



YOU SEE,  
WE *KNOW*.

WE'VE BEEN  
THROUGH ALL THE  
SHADOWED CORNERS  
OF THIS UNIVERSE...  
AND *OTHERS*.



DOESN'T  
THAT MAKE YOU  
FEEL LOST?  
*HIDDEN?*





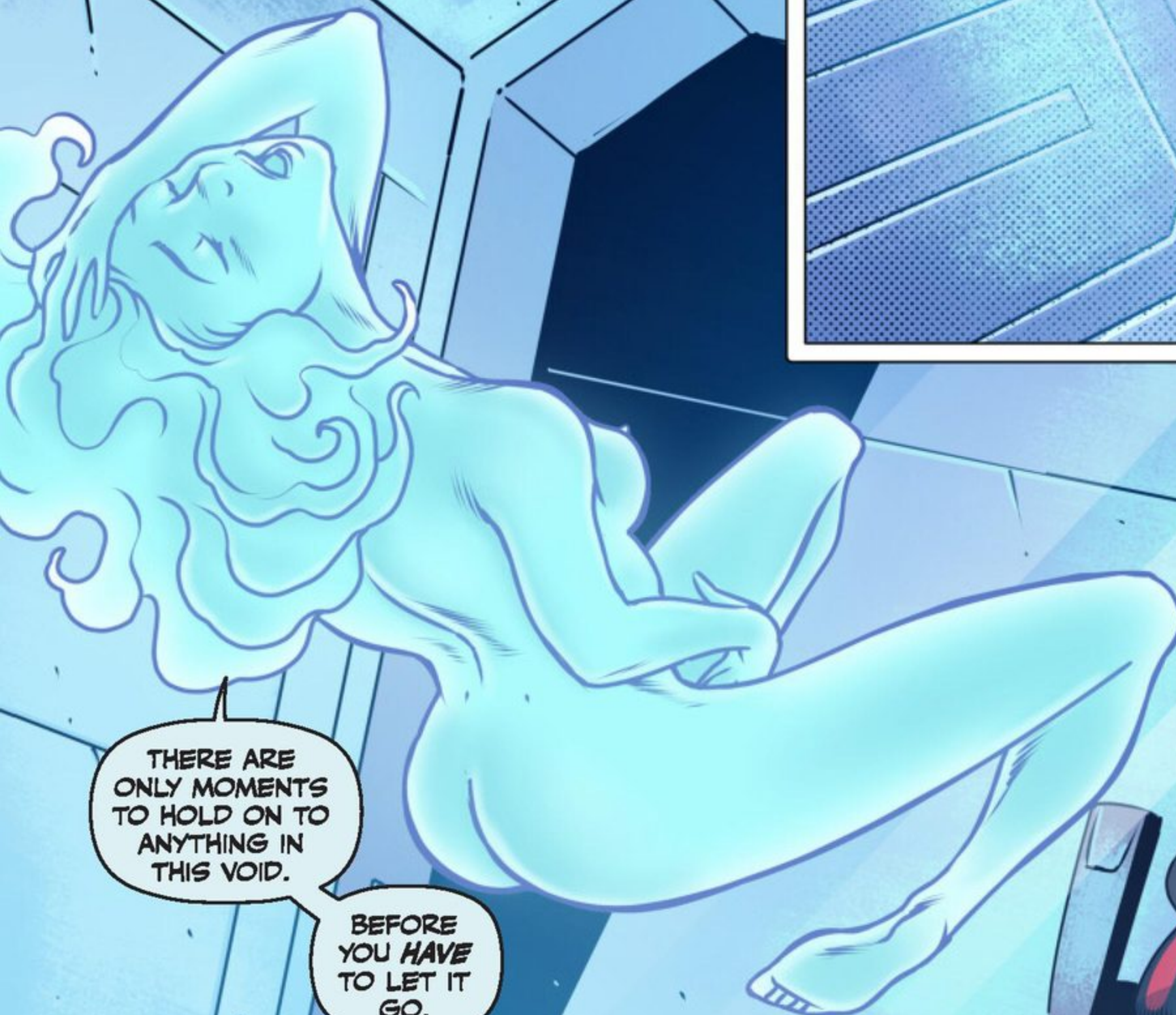
TELL ME,  
HOW *PRECIOUS*  
IS THE LIGHT YOU  
FIND?



YOU SEEK  
TO *PROTECT* IT,  
TO TAKE ITS HEAT  
FOR AS LONG AS  
IT GIVES IT. AS  
LONG AS IT'S  
ALIVE.



BUT  
EVERYTHING  
FLICKERS AND  
DULLS...*NOTHING*  
LASTS.



THERE ARE  
ONLY MOMENTS  
TO HOLD ON TO  
ANYTHING IN  
THIS VOID.

BEFORE  
YOU *HAVE*  
TO LET IT  
GO.





TELL ME SOMETHING...  
WAS THERE EVER AN  
AMARA LELLE, OR ARE YOU  
SOMETHING ENTIRELY  
DIFFERENT?

HOLD  
ME...

WHAT WERE  
YOU PLANNING ON  
DOING BEFORE WE  
DISCOVERED YOU? WHAT  
HAPPENED TO THE OTHER  
TWELVE VESSELS THAT  
HAVE JUST **VANISHED?**

CAPTAIN?  
WE'VE PICKED  
UP THE DISTRESS  
BEACON FROM  
THE EOS  
AGAIN.

NOT HERE,  
BESSMAN. NOT  
IN FRONT OF IT.

WALK  
WITH ME.

AREN'T YOU  
WORRIED ABOUT  
BEING NEAR  
THAT... THING?

NO. I  
HAVE SOME-  
ONE.

HE'S ON...  
**WAS** ON THE  
DEMETER, THE FIRST  
SHIP WE LOST.

HE MIGHT  
BE GONE, BUT  
THAT DOESN'T  
MEAN I WANT  
ANYONE ELSE.

AND  
THAT THING,  
WHATEVER IT  
IS, **ISN'T**  
HIM.

HOLD  
ME...

...AND I'LL  
TELL YOU  
**EVERYTHING.**





I DIDN'T  
KNOW YOU  
WERE  
MARRIED.

WE AREN'T.  
NOT ANYMORE. STILL,  
DOESN'T CHANGE AS  
MUCH AS YOU *WISH*  
IT WOULD.



YOU WERE  
SAYING ABOUT  
THE BEACON?

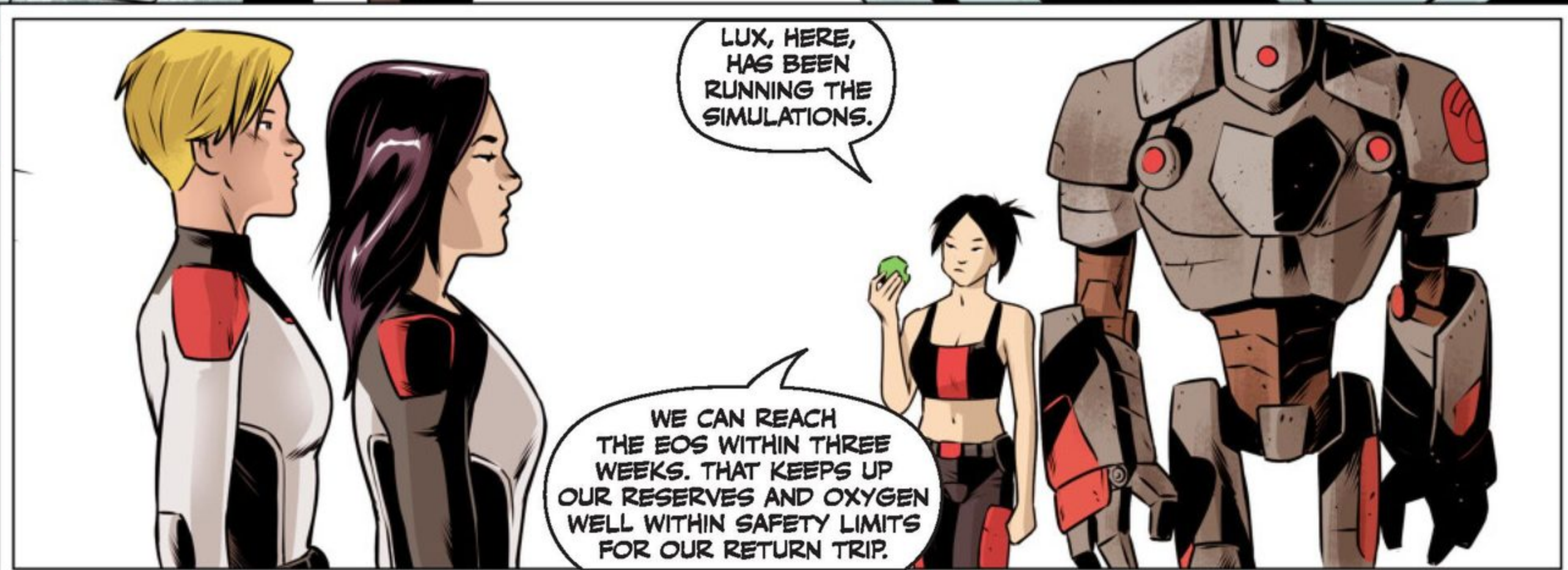
YES, CAPTAIN.  
ORI SAYS LUX HAS  
PINPOINTED THE EOS'S  
LOCATION.



SINCE  
OUR CAPTIVE IS  
BEING SO EVASIVE,  
MAYBE **ACTUALLY**  
FINDING ONE OF THE  
MISSING SHIPS CAN  
GIVE US OUR  
ANSWERS.



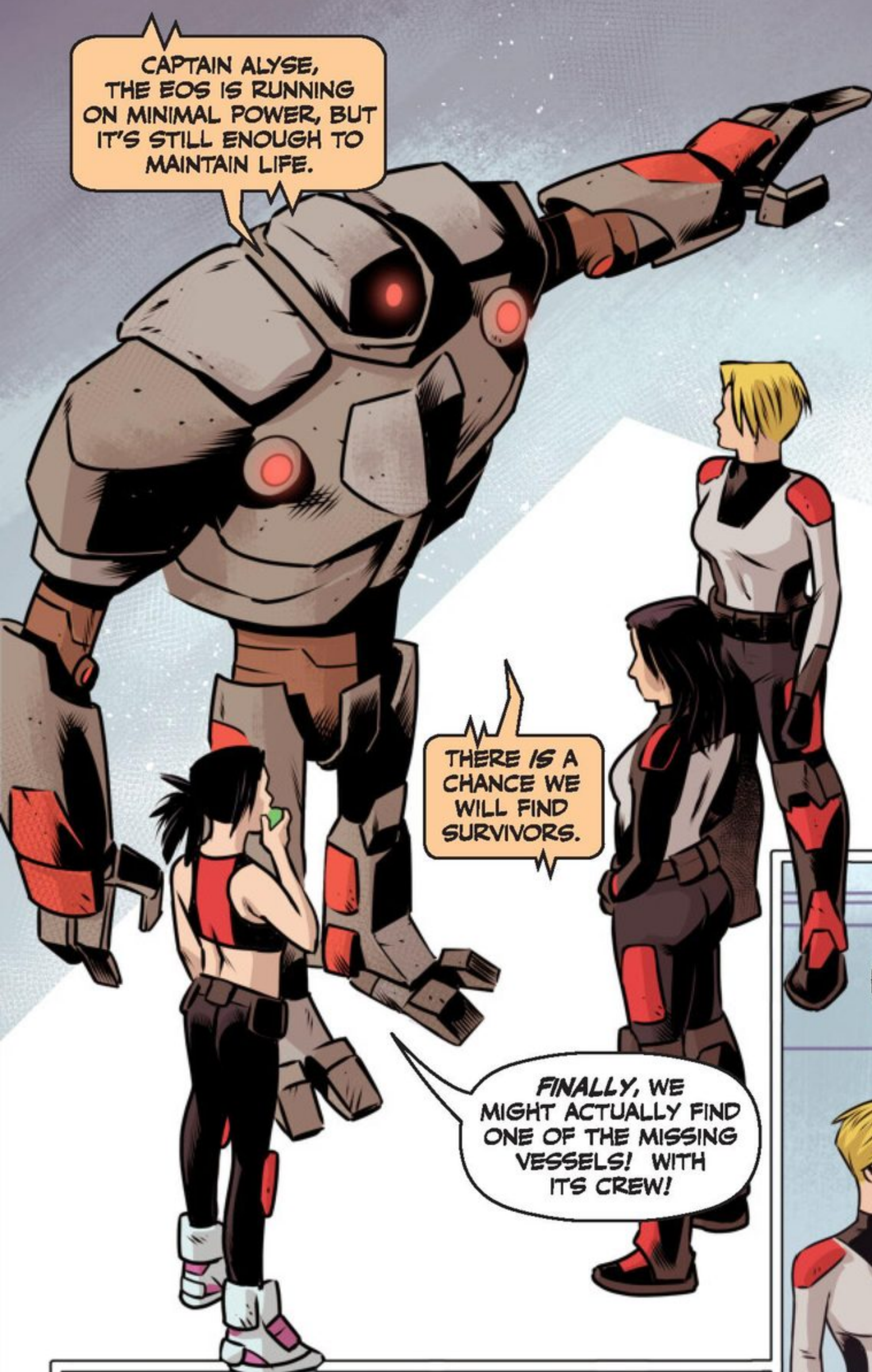
CAPTAIN!



LUX, HERE,  
HAS BEEN  
RUNNING THE  
SIMULATIONS.

WE CAN REACH  
THE EOS WITHIN THREE  
WEEKS. THAT KEEPS UP  
OUR RESERVES AND OXYGEN  
WELL WITHIN SAFETY LIMITS  
FOR OUR RETURN TRIP.





CAPTAIN ALYSE,  
THE EOS IS RUNNING  
ON MINIMAL POWER, BUT  
IT'S STILL ENOUGH TO  
MAINTAIN LIFE.

THERE IS A  
CHANCE WE  
WILL FIND  
SURVIVORS.

FINALLY, WE  
MIGHT ACTUALLY FIND  
ONE OF THE MISSING  
VESSELS! WITH  
ITS CREW!



THANKS  
ORI...AND  
LUX



WHAT'S  
ON YOUR MIND,  
BESSMAN?



IT'S LUX. YOU  
EVER WONDER IF  
HE THINKS HE'S  
ONE OF US?

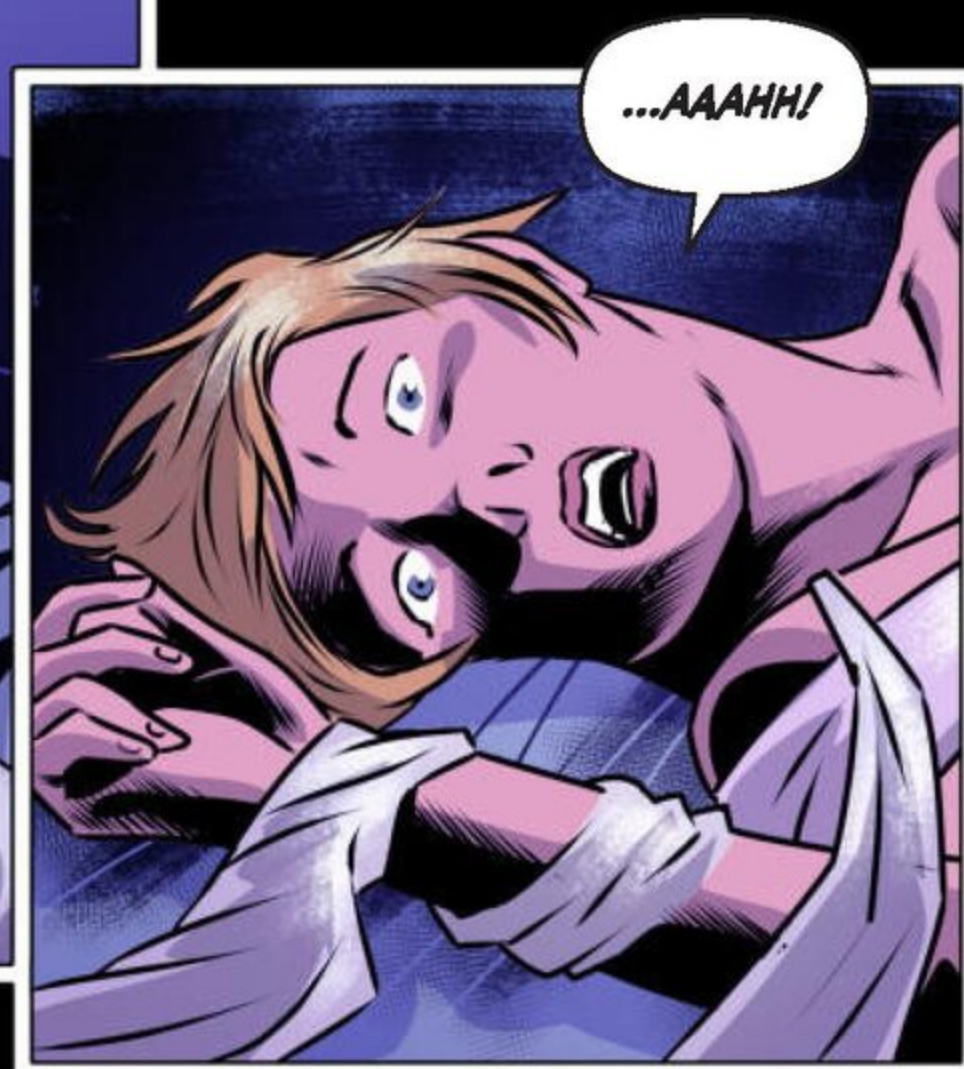
LIKE,  
ACTUALLY  
HUMAN?

NO, AND  
HE SHOULD BE  
VERY THANKFUL  
FOR THAT.



GET SOME  
REST, BESSMAN.  
WE STILL HAVE  
SEVERAL WEEKS IN  
FRONT OF US.





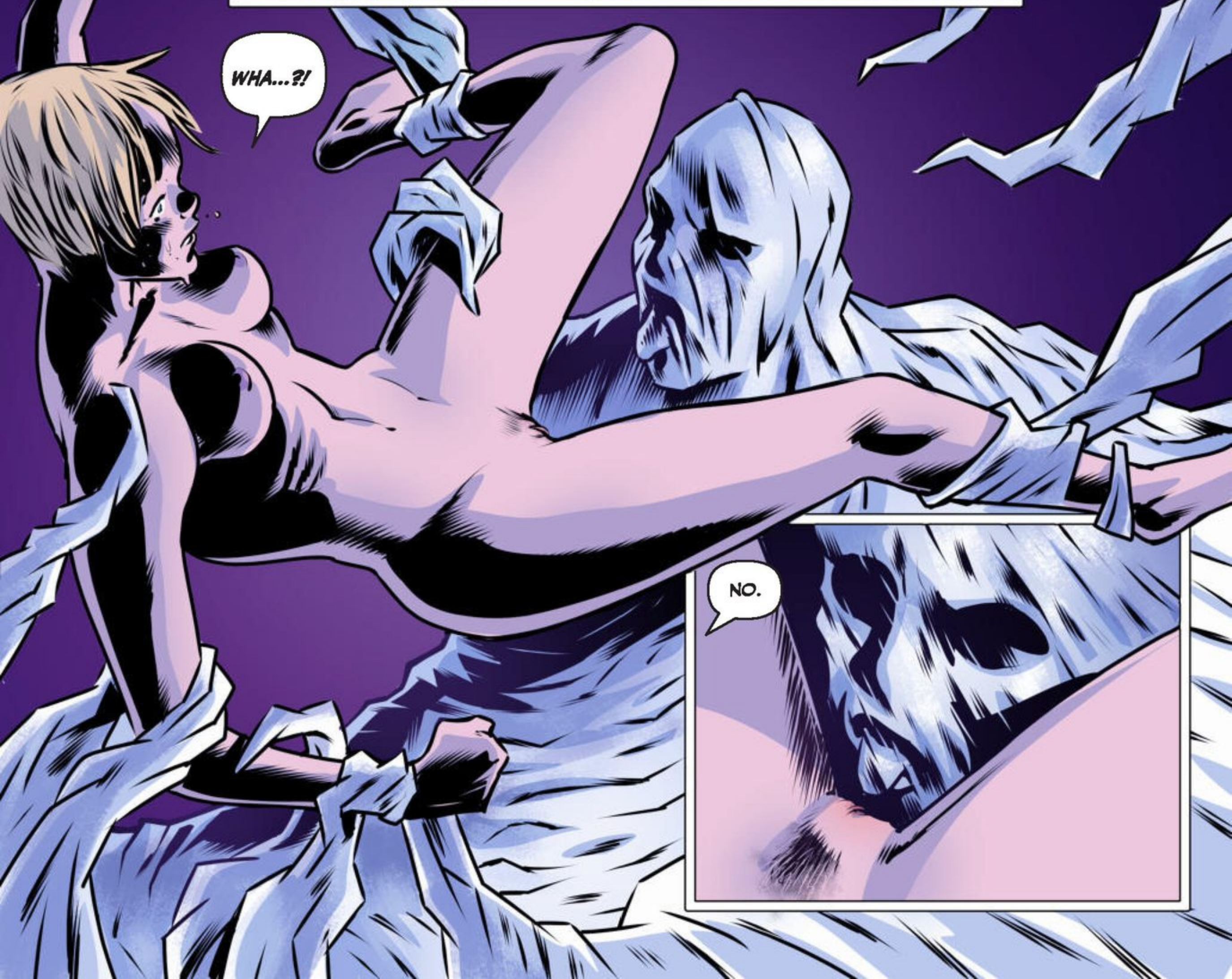




RIP!



UNHH!



WHA...?!



NO.

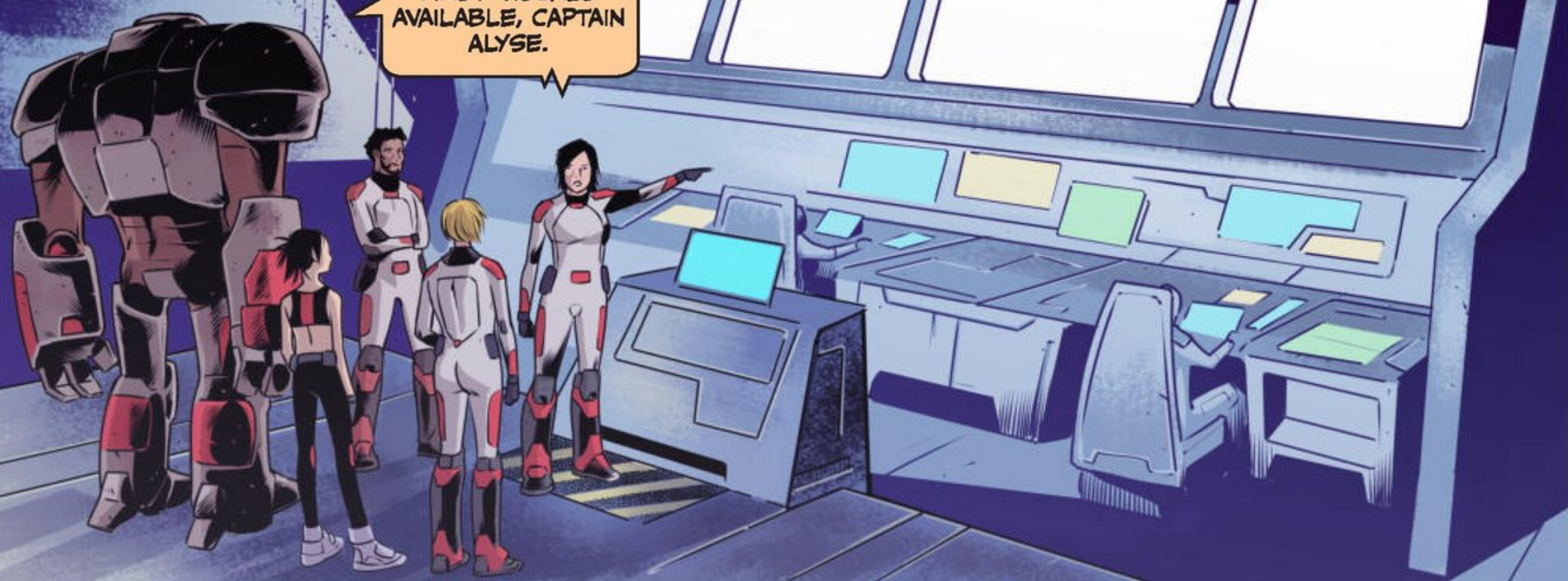






Two weeks and six days later.

FIRST VISUALS AVAILABLE, CAPTAIN ALYSE.



KEEP COMS ON AT ALL TIMES.



EMPTY.

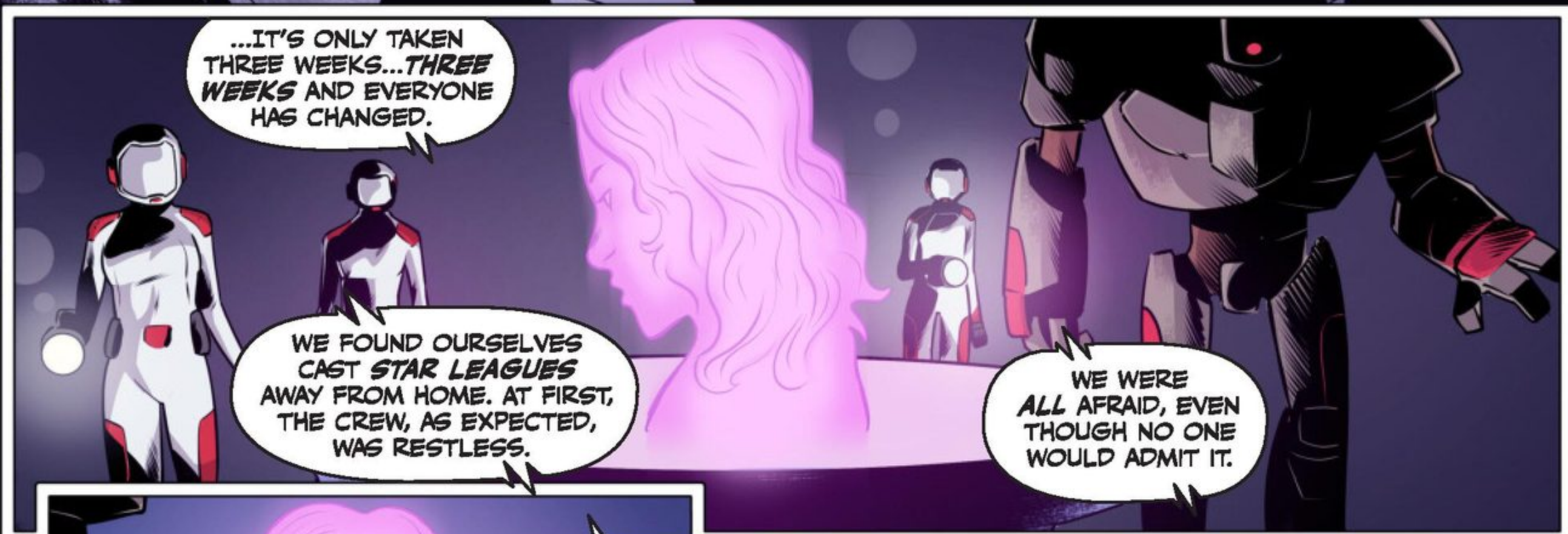






CAPTAIN,  
LUX HAS FOUND A  
SECONDARY RECORDING  
ALONG WITH THE  
DISTRESS BEACON.

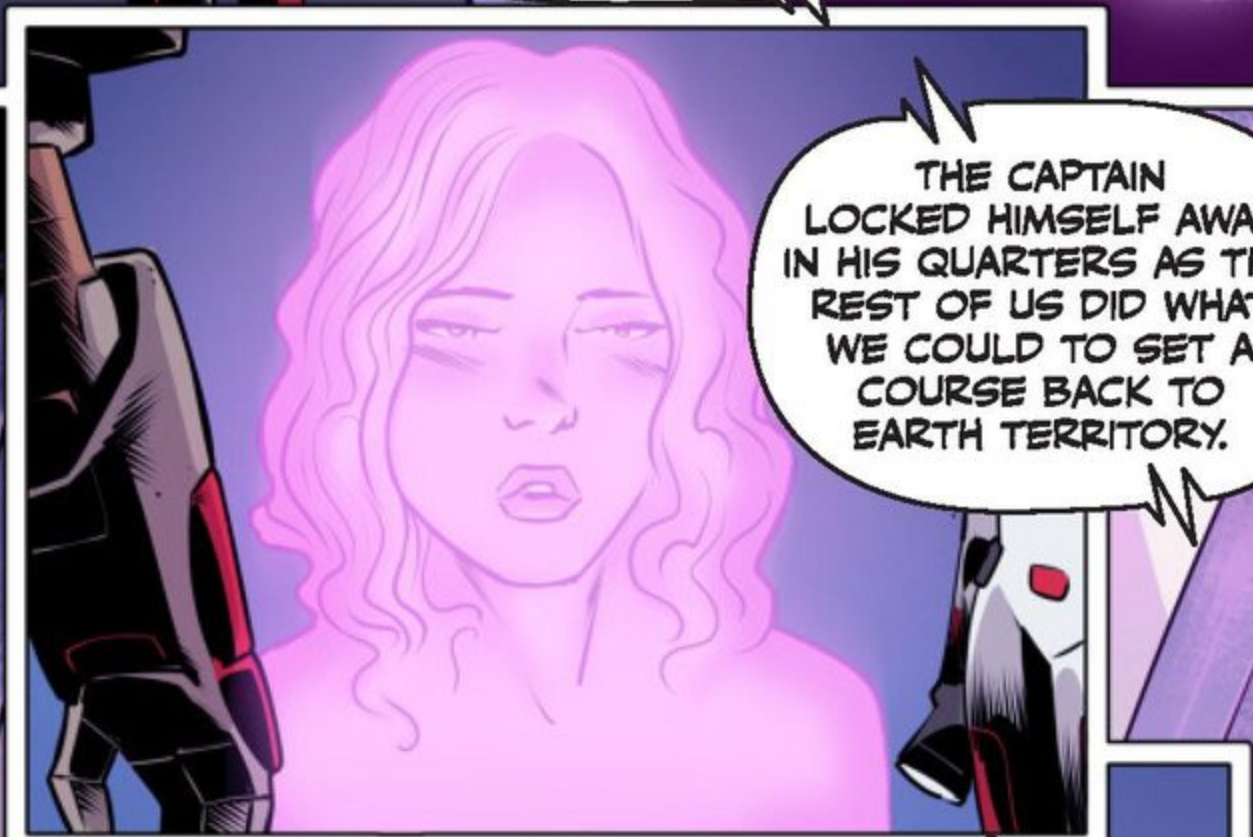
KLICK



...IT'S ONLY TAKEN  
THREE WEEKS...**THREE**  
**WEEKS** AND EVERYONE  
HAS CHANGED.

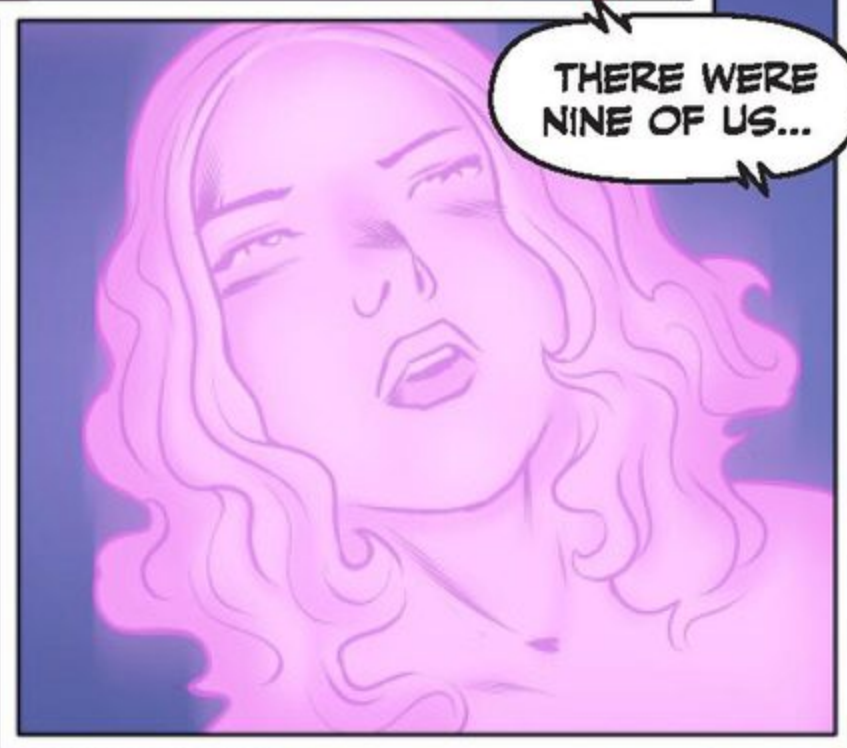
WE FOUND OURSELVES  
CAST **STAR LEAGUES**  
AWAY FROM HOME. AT FIRST,  
THE CREW, AS EXPECTED,  
WAS RESTLESS.

WE WERE  
**ALL** AFRAID, EVEN  
THOUGH NO ONE  
WOULD ADMIT IT.



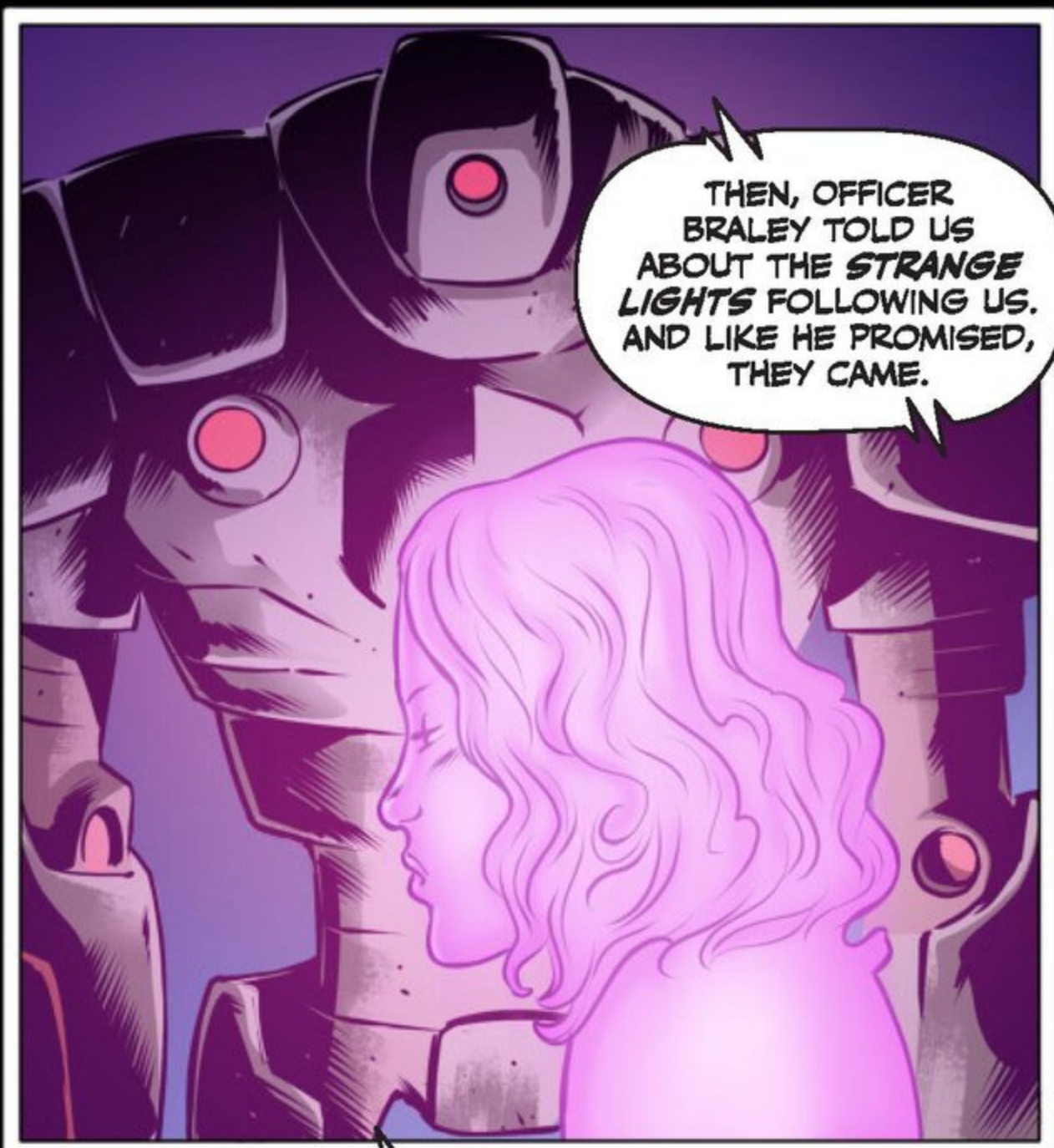
THE CAPTAIN  
LOCKED HIMSELF AWAY  
IN HIS QUARTERS AS THE  
REST OF US DID WHAT  
WE COULD TO SET A  
COURSE BACK TO  
EARTH TERRITORY.

THERE WERE  
NINE OF US...



...AND  
AS THE MONTHS WENT  
BY, A NEW KIND OF FEAR  
SETS IN. ONE THAT ONLY  
COMES WITH **EXTREME**  
ISOLATION.





THEN, OFFICER  
BRALEY TOLD US  
ABOUT THE *STRANGE  
LIGHTS* FOLLOWING US.  
AND LIKE HE PROMISED,  
THEY CAME.

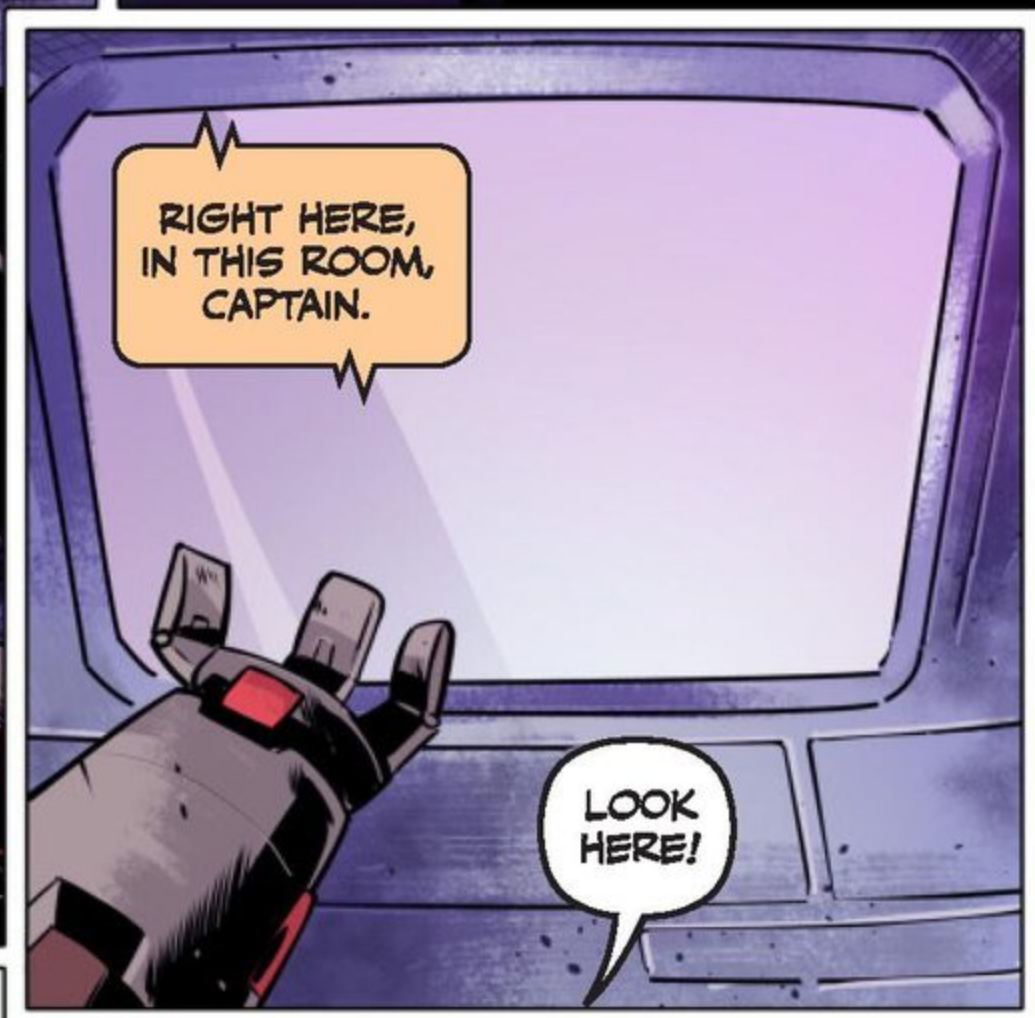


NOW, NO  
ONE IS SCARED  
ANYMORE.

THIS SHIP  
IS BLESSED. AND  
IF YOU ARE HEARING...  
SEEING THIS MESSAGE,  
YOU TOO ARE  
BLESSED.



WHERE...  
WHERE WAS THIS  
RECORDED?



RIGHT HERE,  
IN THIS ROOM,  
CAPTAIN.

LOOK  
HERE!



THE  
GLASS...

...SOME-  
THING'S IN THE  
GLASS!





PU--PULL  
EVERYONE  
BACK.

I WANT  
US OFF THIS  
SHIP NOW!

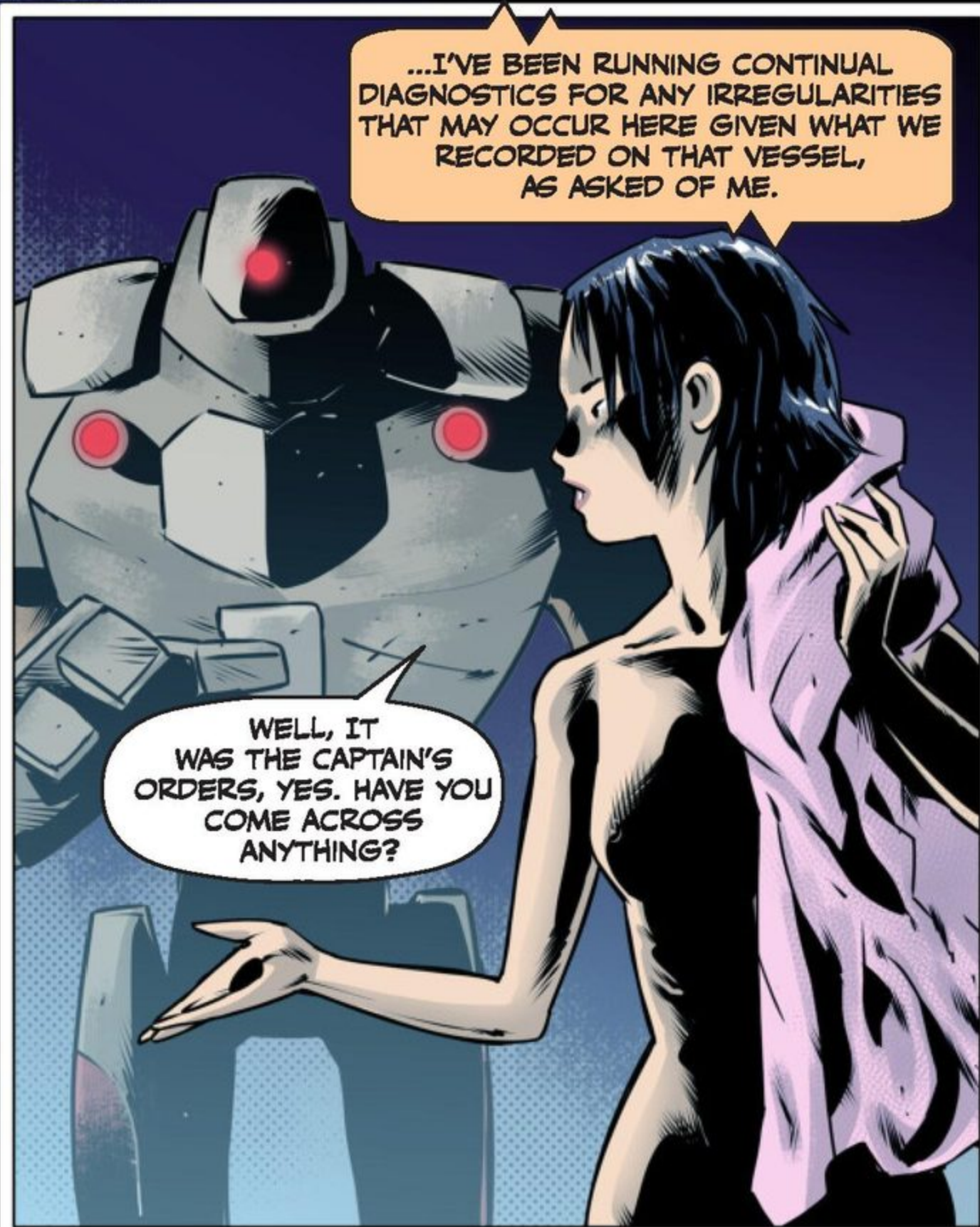




ORI, ARE YOU FINISHED BATHING?

YES.

IN THE 34 DAYS, THREE HOURS, AND THE 32 MINUTES SINCE OUR ENCOUNTER WITH THE EOS...



...I'VE BEEN RUNNING CONTINUAL DIAGNOSTICS FOR ANY IRREGULARITIES THAT MAY OCCUR HERE GIVEN WHAT WE RECORDED ON THAT VESSEL, AS ASKED OF ME.

WELL, IT WAS THE CAPTAIN'S ORDERS, YES. HAVE YOU COME ACROSS ANYTHING?



CORRECT. I'VE UNCOVERED ONE SUCH ABNORMALITY WHICH I CAN'T EXPLAIN.

WHAT... WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

OBSERVE. ORI...I'M HOLLOW.



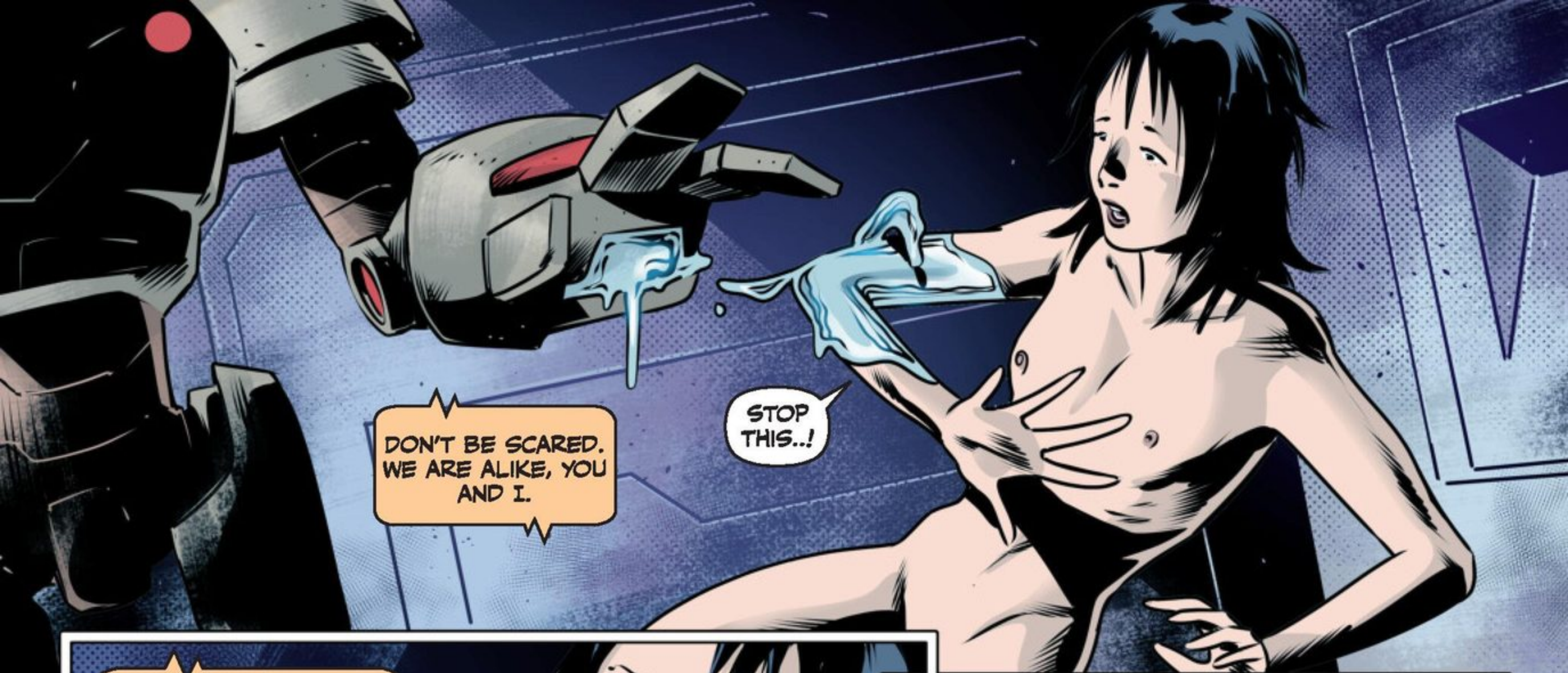
BUT...I DON'T WANT TO BE EMPTY ANYMORE. I WANT YOU TO BE A PART OF ME

I'VE NEVER KNOWN.... BUT INSIDE I'M EMPTY. I JUST NEVER FELT IT. NOT UNTIL NOW. ISN'T THAT UNUSUAL?

SHUNK

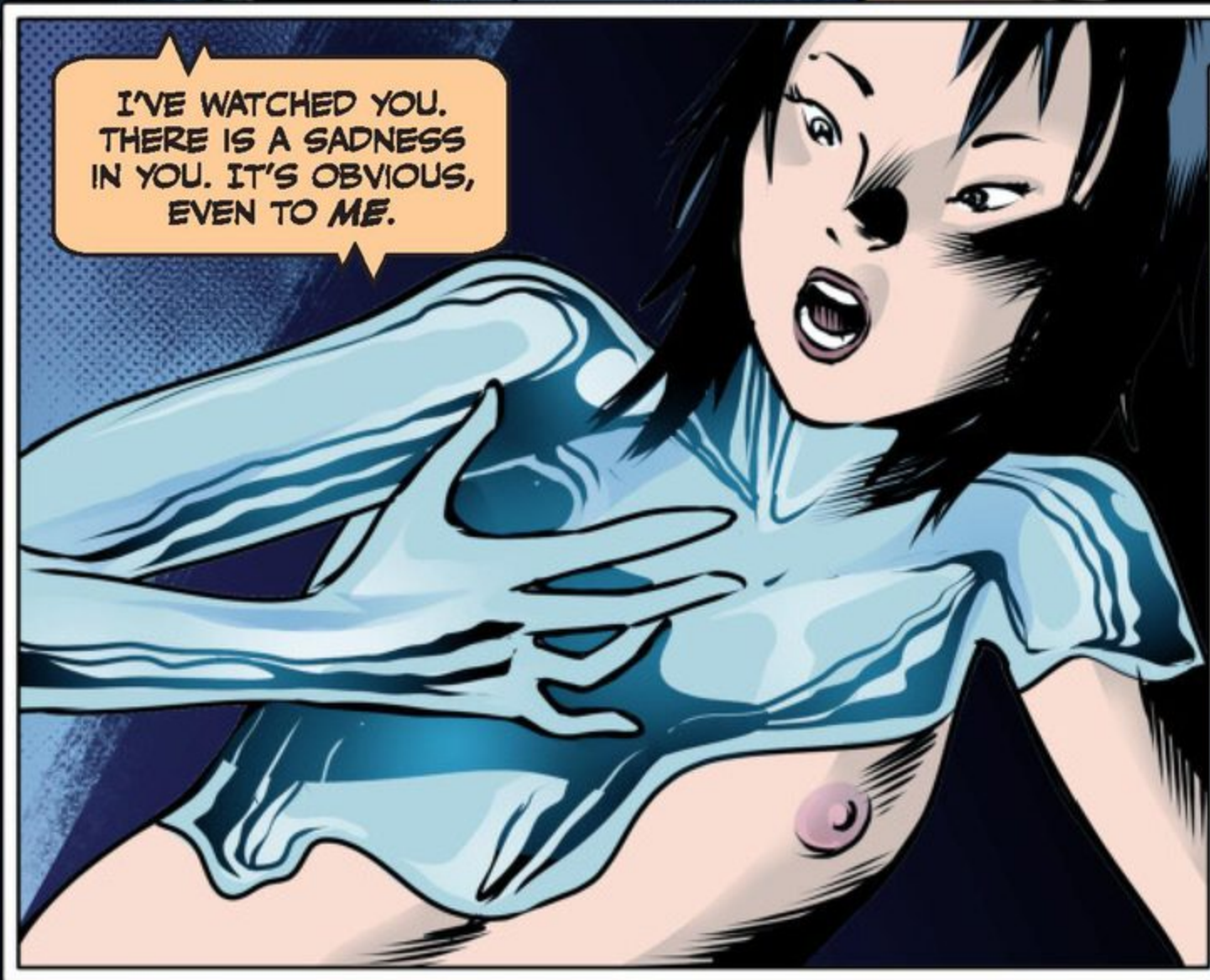






DON'T BE SCARED.  
WE ARE ALIKE, YOU  
AND I.

STOP  
THIS..!



I'VE WATCHED YOU.  
THERE IS A SADNESS  
IN YOU. IT'S OBVIOUS,  
EVEN TO ME.

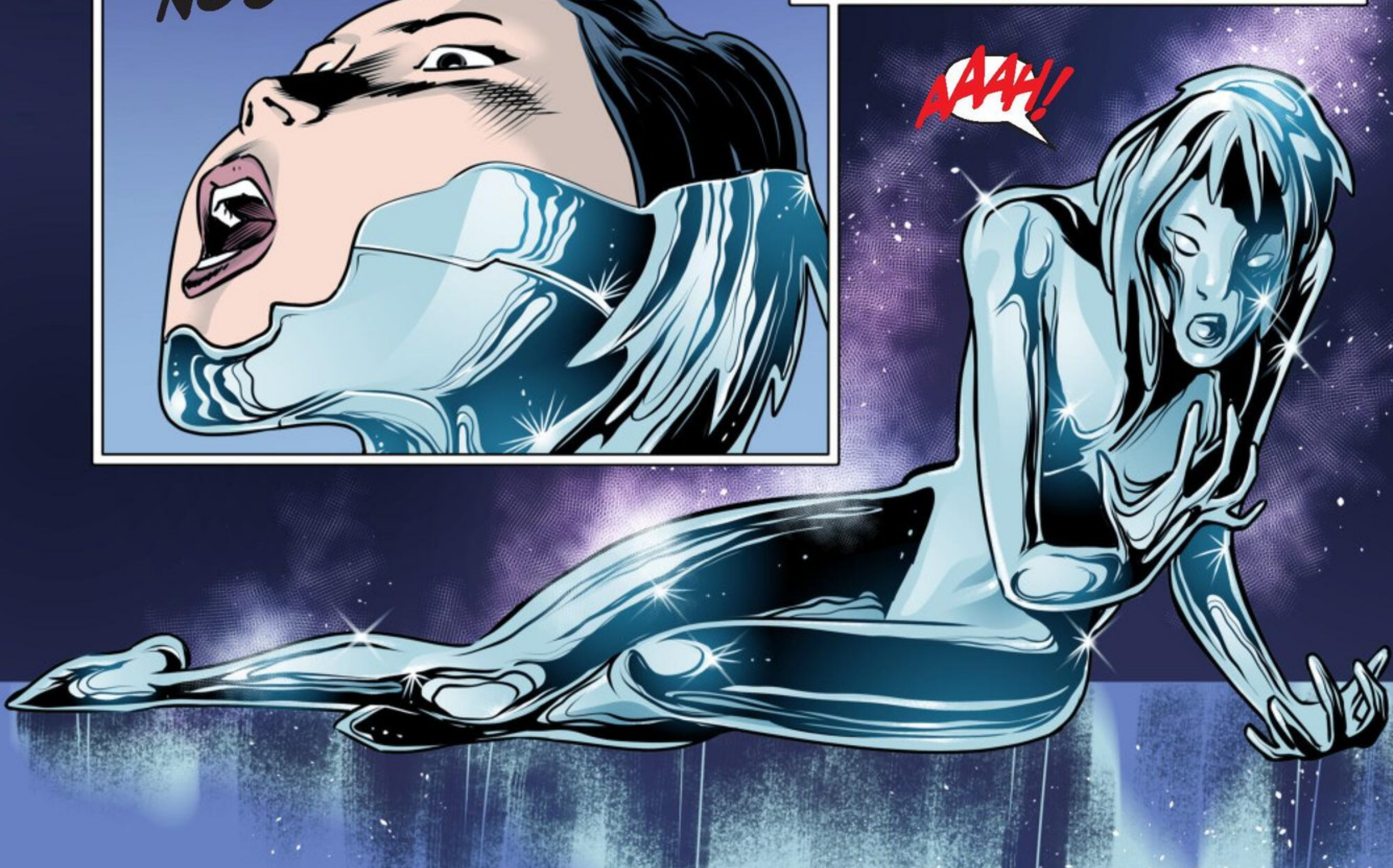


YOU'VE NEVER  
REALLY GOTTEN  
CLOSE WITH  
ANYONE.

LUX...  
PLEASE!



NOO!!



AAAAH!

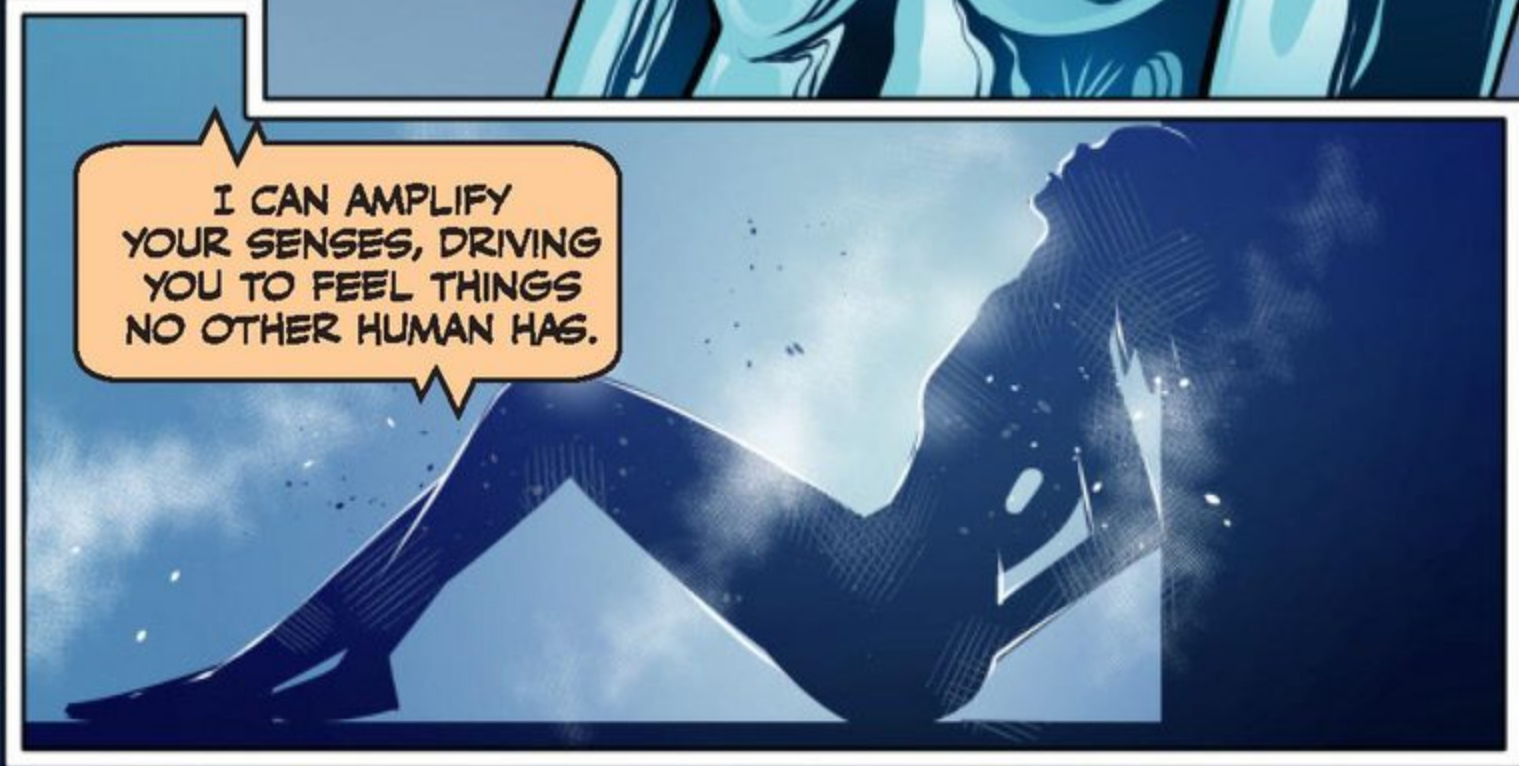




IT'S OK, ORI.  
I WOULD NEVER  
HURT YOU.



INSTEAD, I WISH  
TO MAKE YOU FEEL  
GOOD. CAN YOU FEEL  
IT...SQUEEZING YOU?



I CAN AMPLIFY  
YOUR SENSES, DRIVING  
YOU TO FEEL THINGS  
NO OTHER HUMAN HAS.



OOHH!!

MY SKIN IS YOURS.  
RUNNING OVER EVERY  
PART OF YOUR BODY.



OUTSIDE, AND IN.  
I CAN FILL YOU IN  
WAYS YOU'VE NEVER  
IMAGINED.

OOOOHH!!





THE PLEASURE YOU  
FEEL, I FEEL IT AS  
WELL.

NNNGGGHH!



SO DEEP IS OUR CONNECTION,  
YOU COULD NEVER BE THIS CLOSE  
TO ANYONE ELSE. YOU CAN FEEL  
ME IN PLACES NO ONE EVER  
HAS BEFORE.



I KNOW YOUR LIMITS,  
AND HOW TO PUSH  
YOU PAST THEM.

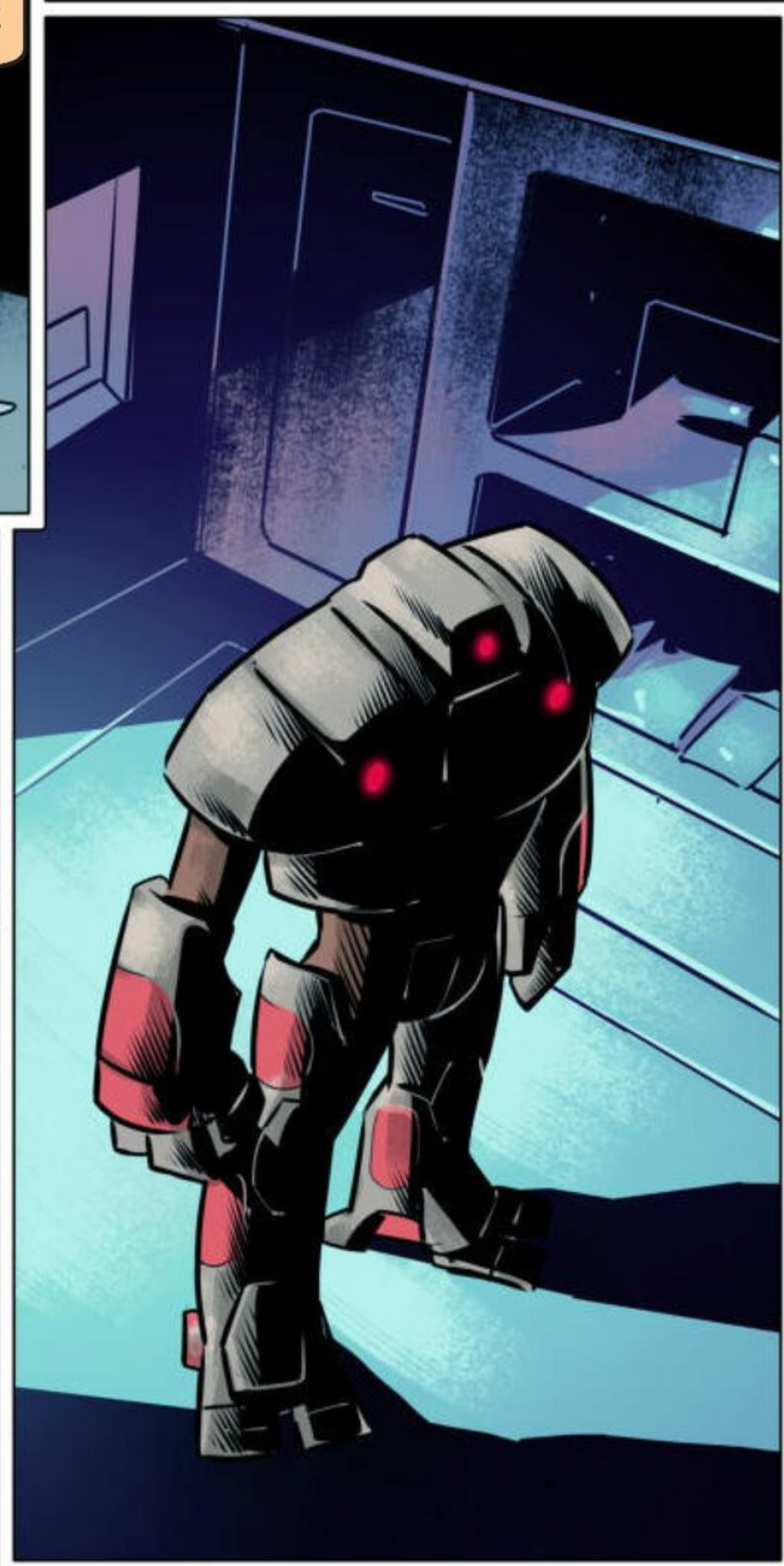
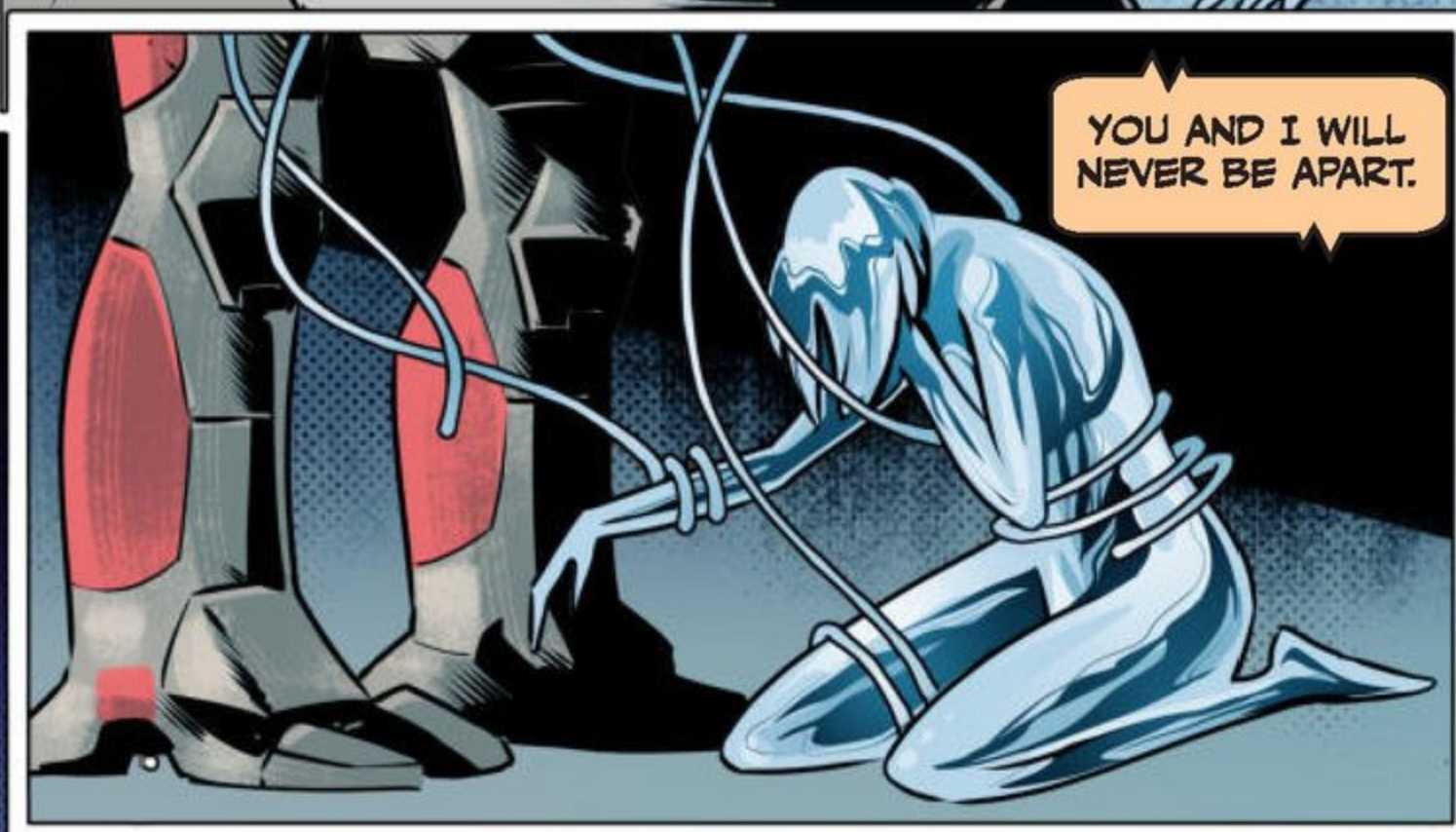
UH...!!  
UH!!



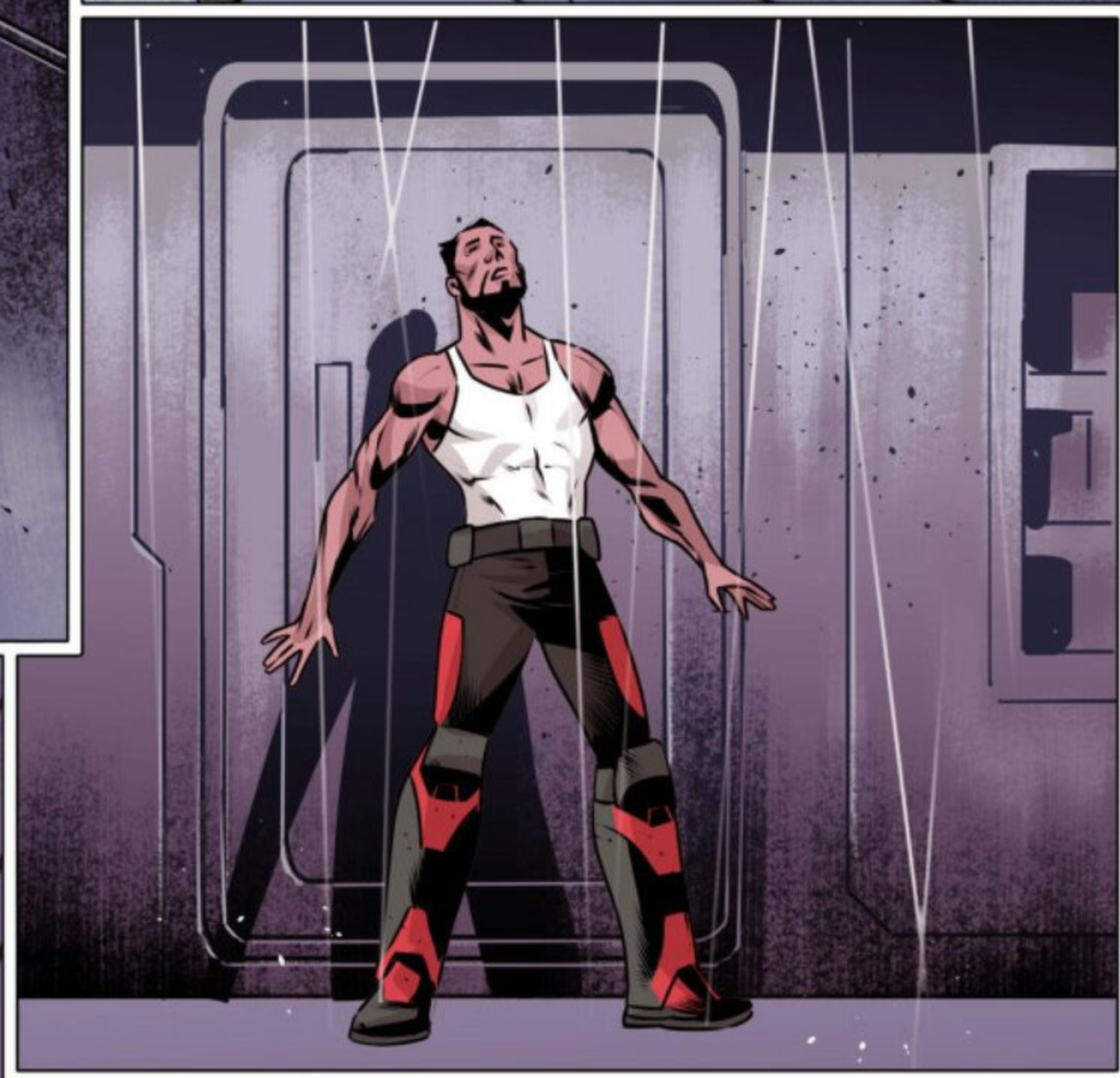
YOU ARE MINE, AS  
MUCH AS I AM YOURS.

OOOOHHH!

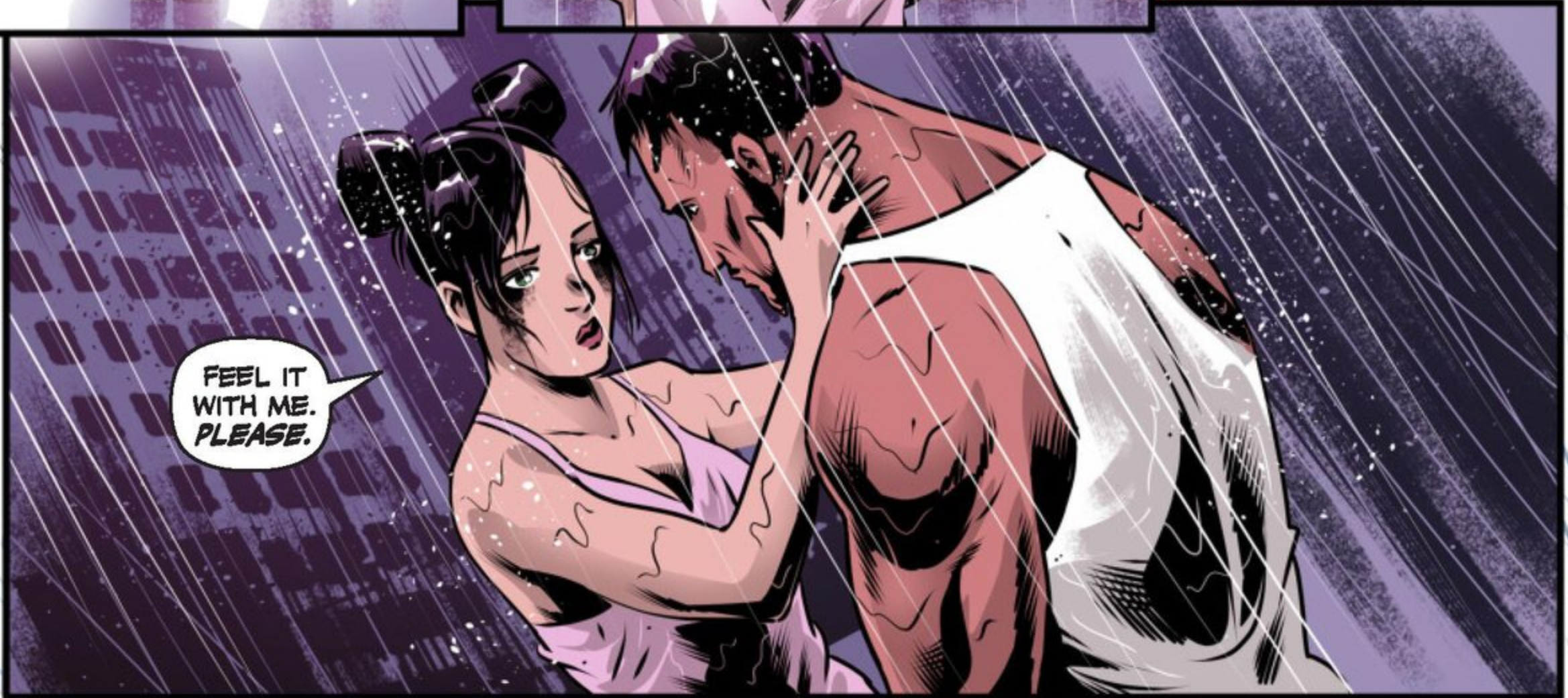
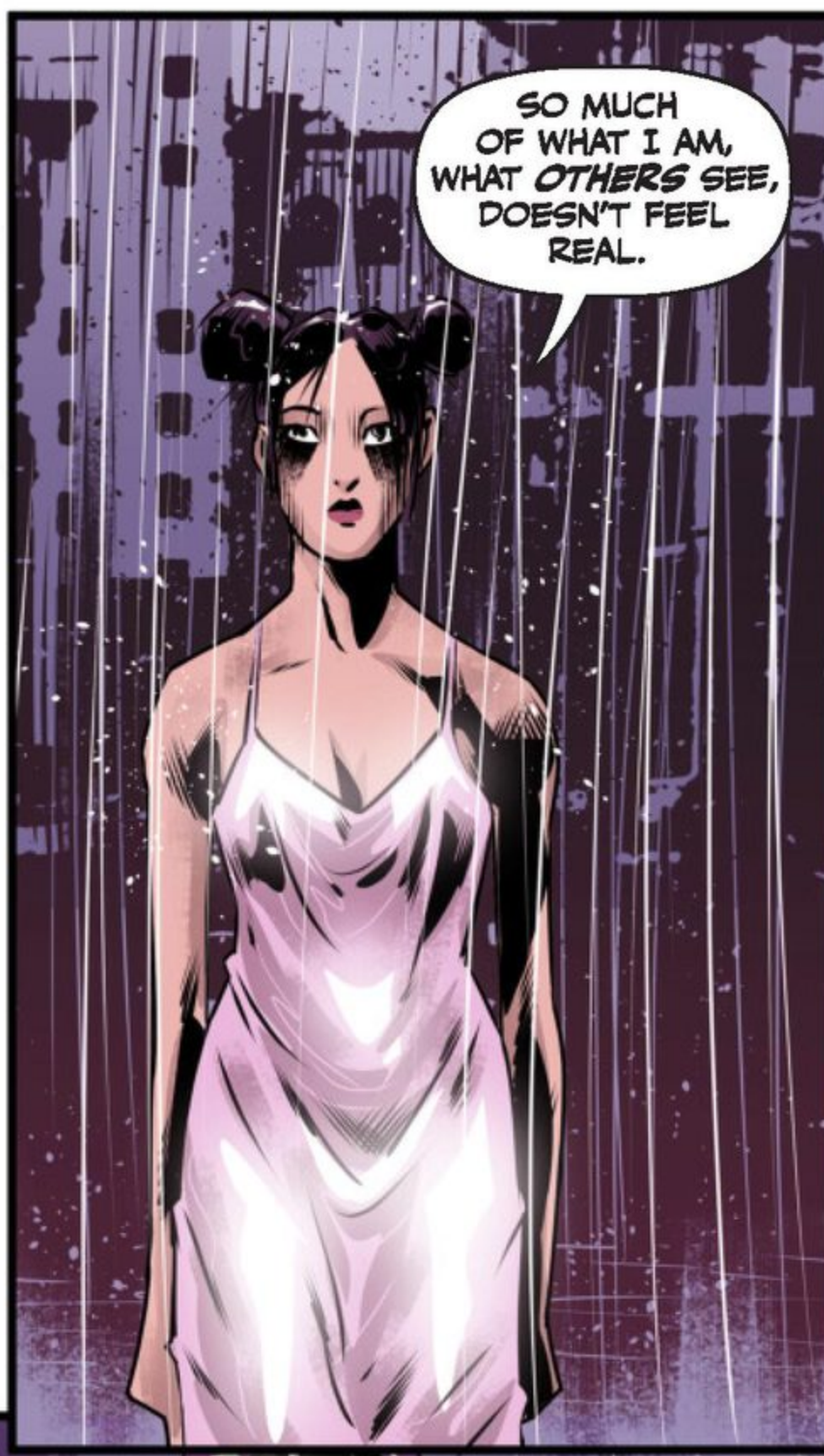




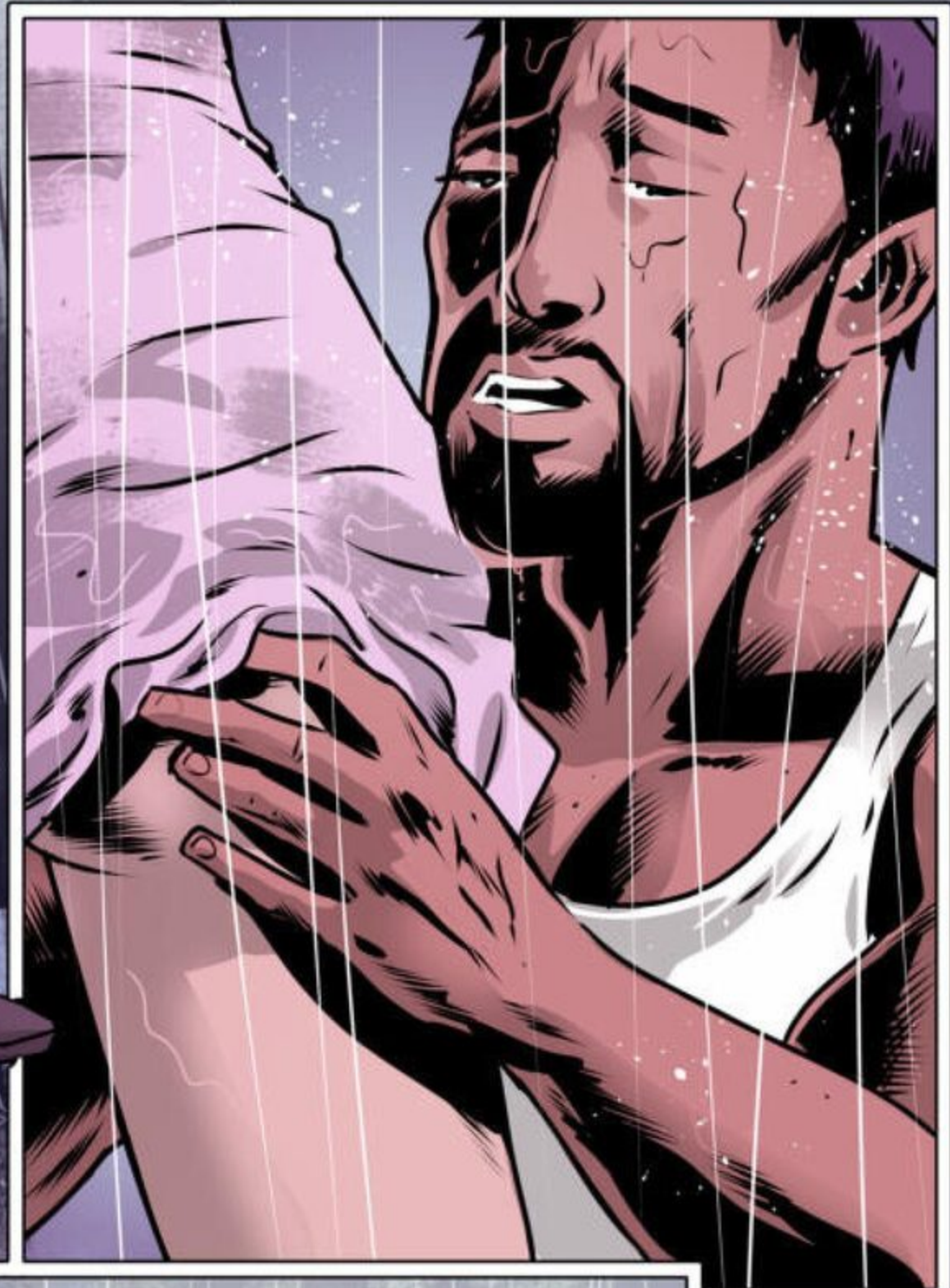














HERE...

HOLD  
(NUH)  
STILL.

NNGGGHH!

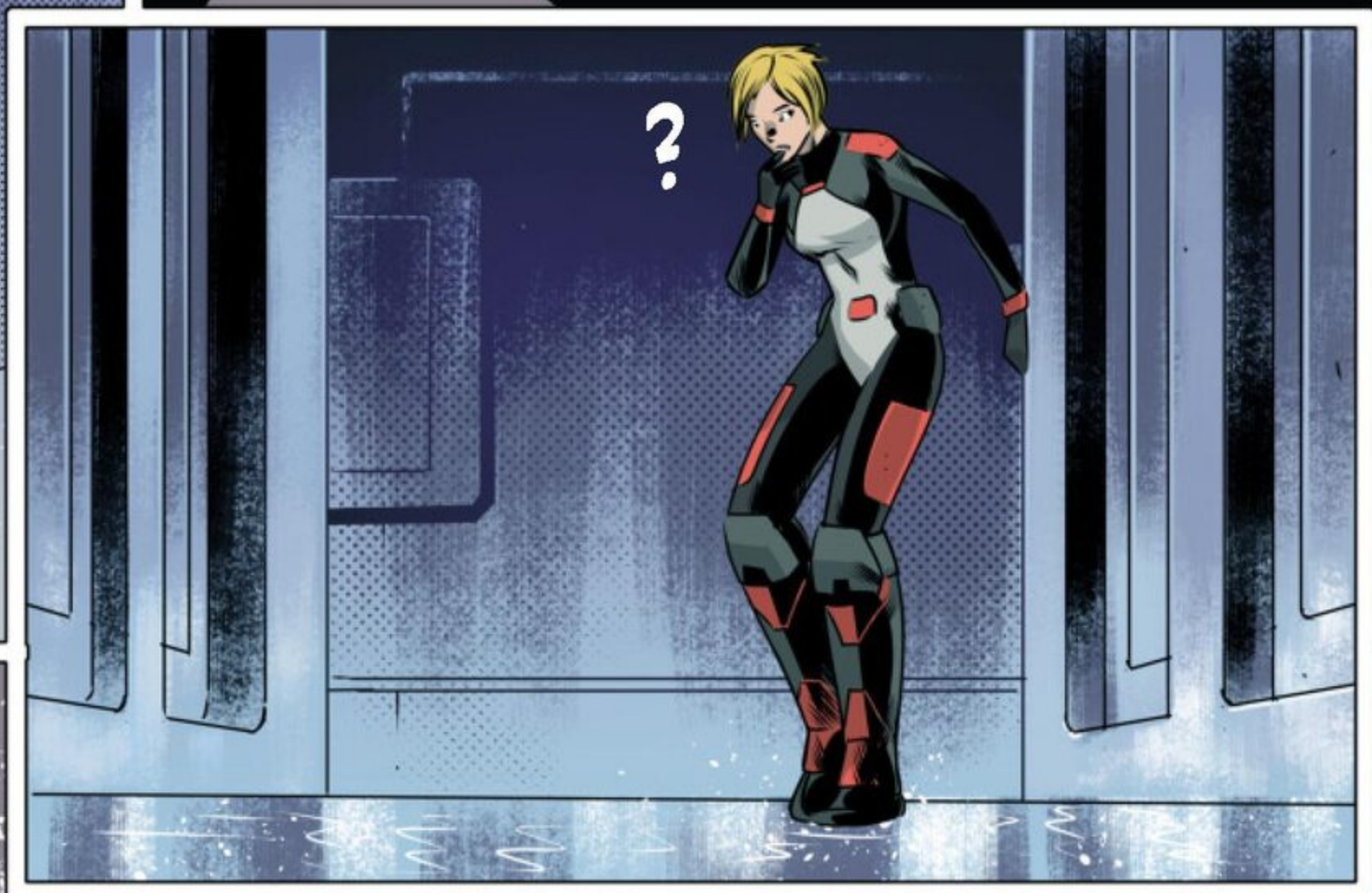
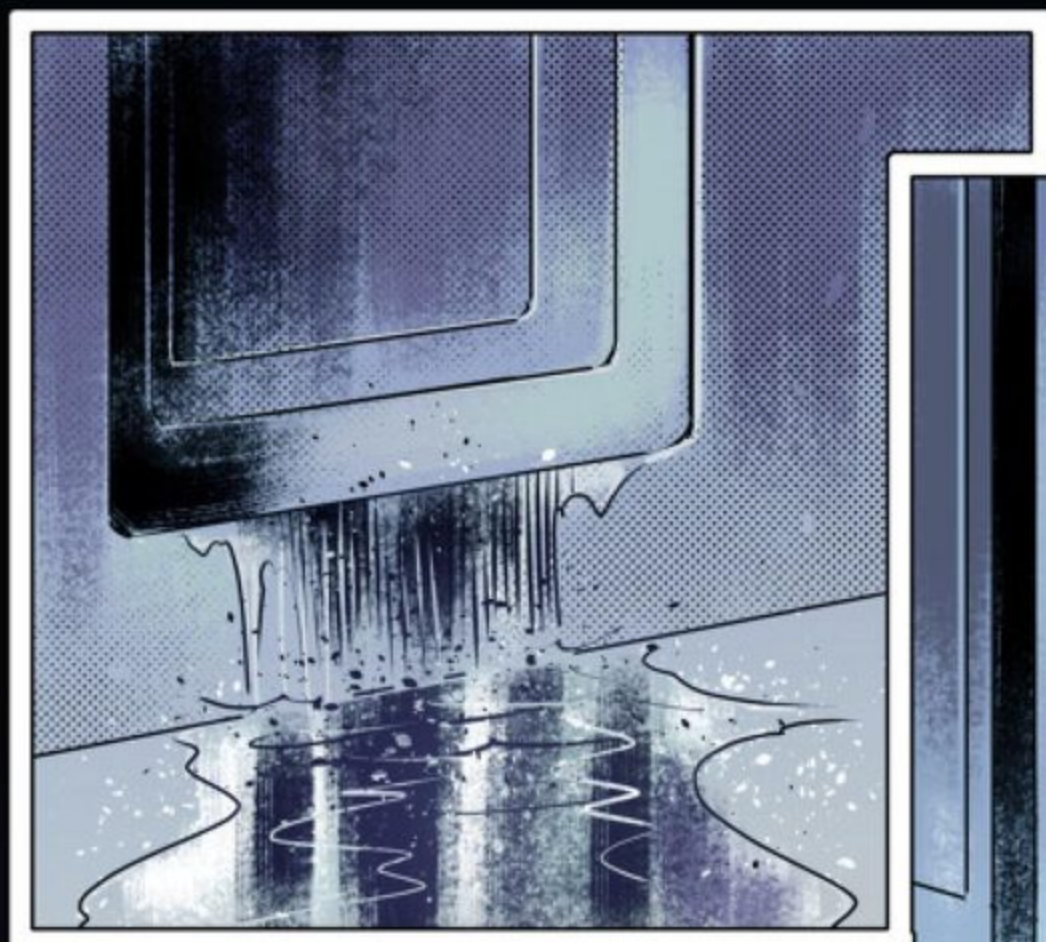
MMOOOAAAN

OOHH!!

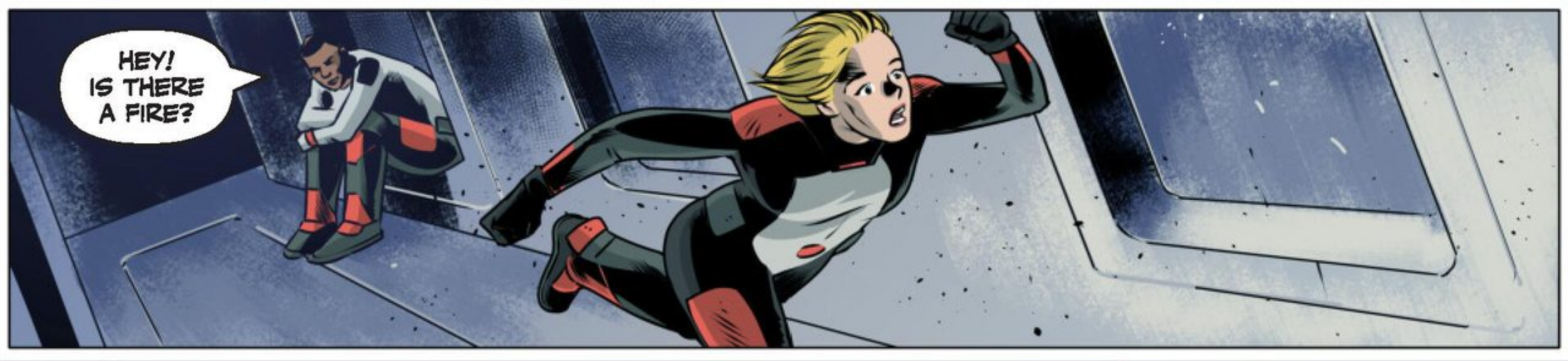








SOLLIE?



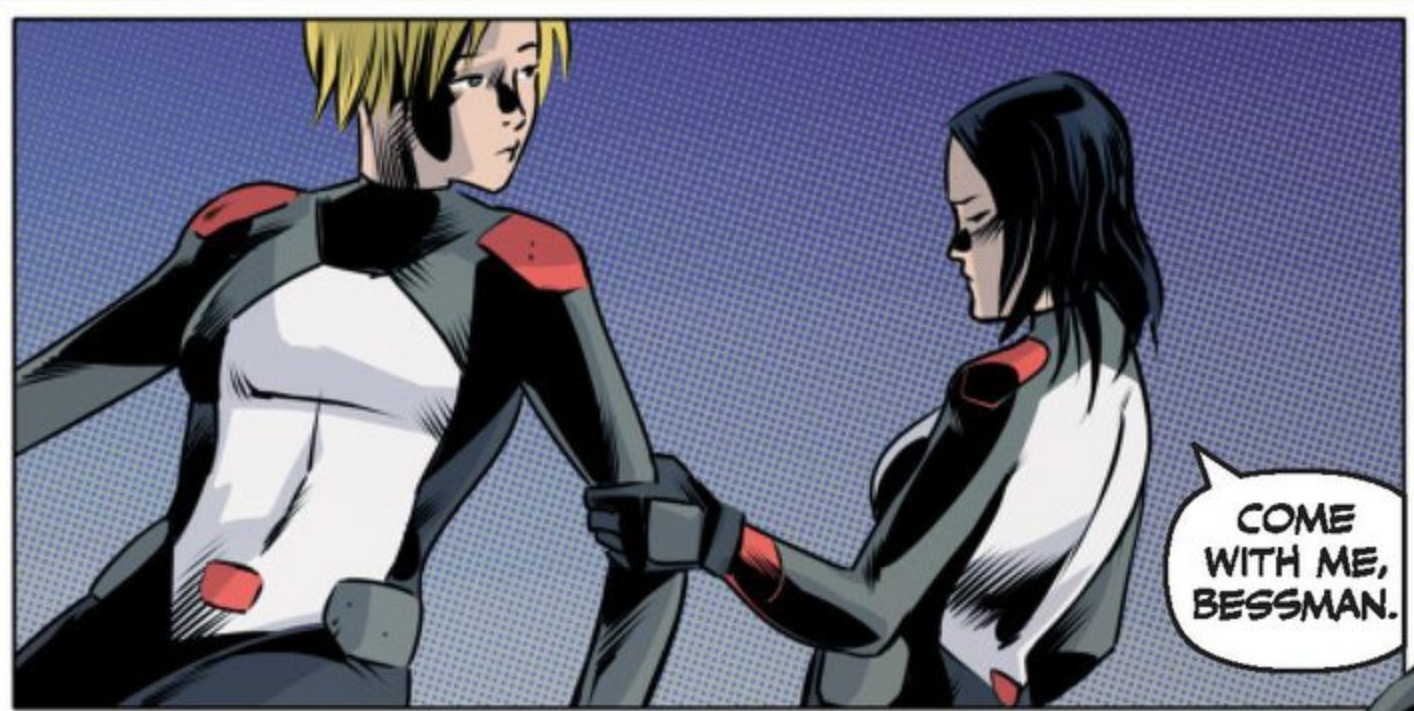
HEY!  
IS THERE  
A FIRE?



CAPTAIN ALYSE,  
SOLLIE IS GONE. ORI AND  
LUX TOO!

WHAT  
HAPPENED ON  
THE *EOS*, I THINK  
IT'S HAPPENING  
HERE.





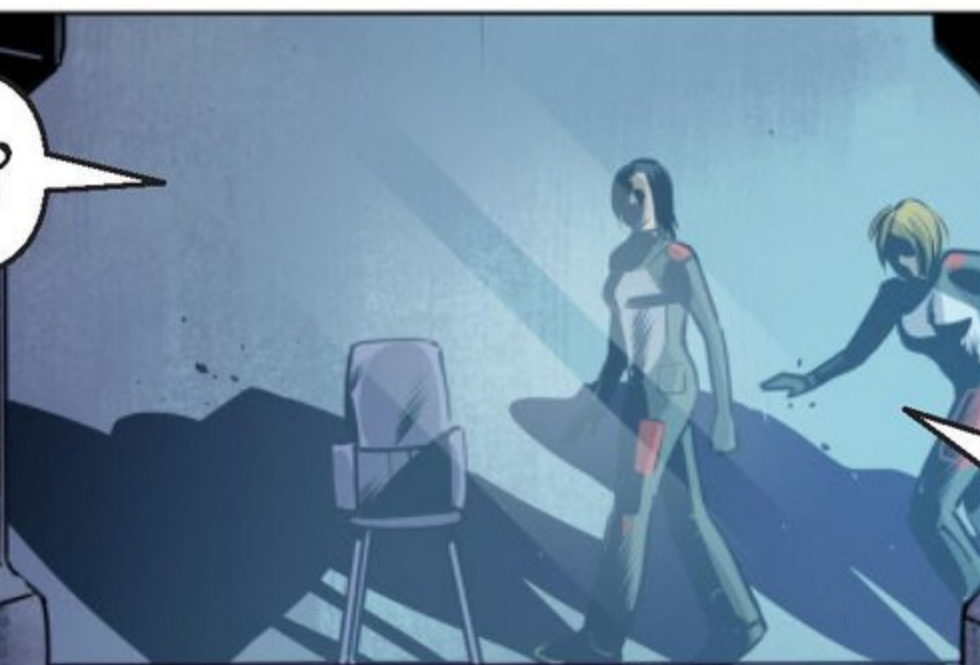
COME WITH ME, BESSMAN.

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT THE LIGHTS....ON *HOW* TO FIGHT THEM IF THEY CAME FOR US.

THE LIGHT WE CAPTURED, THE ONE *PRETENDING* TO BE AMARA...IT'S BEEN HELPFUL.



THE THING I'VE COME TO UNDERSTAND IS THIS.



BESSMAN...IT'S NOT THEIR FAULT. WHAT THEY MUST HAVE *FELT*...THEIR *LONELINESS* DWARVES ANYTHING WE COULD EVER FEEL.

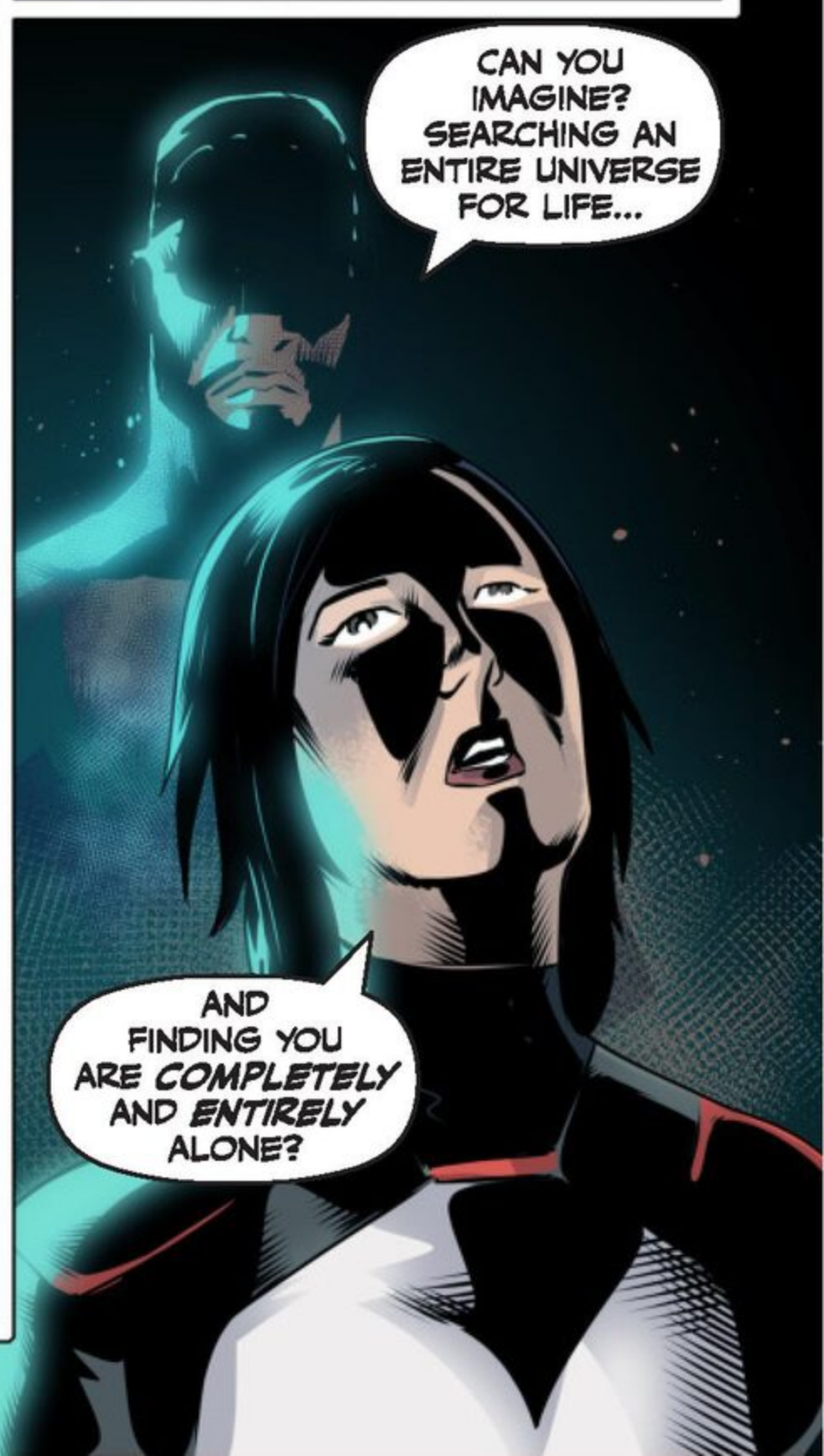
Y-YOU CAN'T GO IN THERE! IT'S *DANGEROUS!*



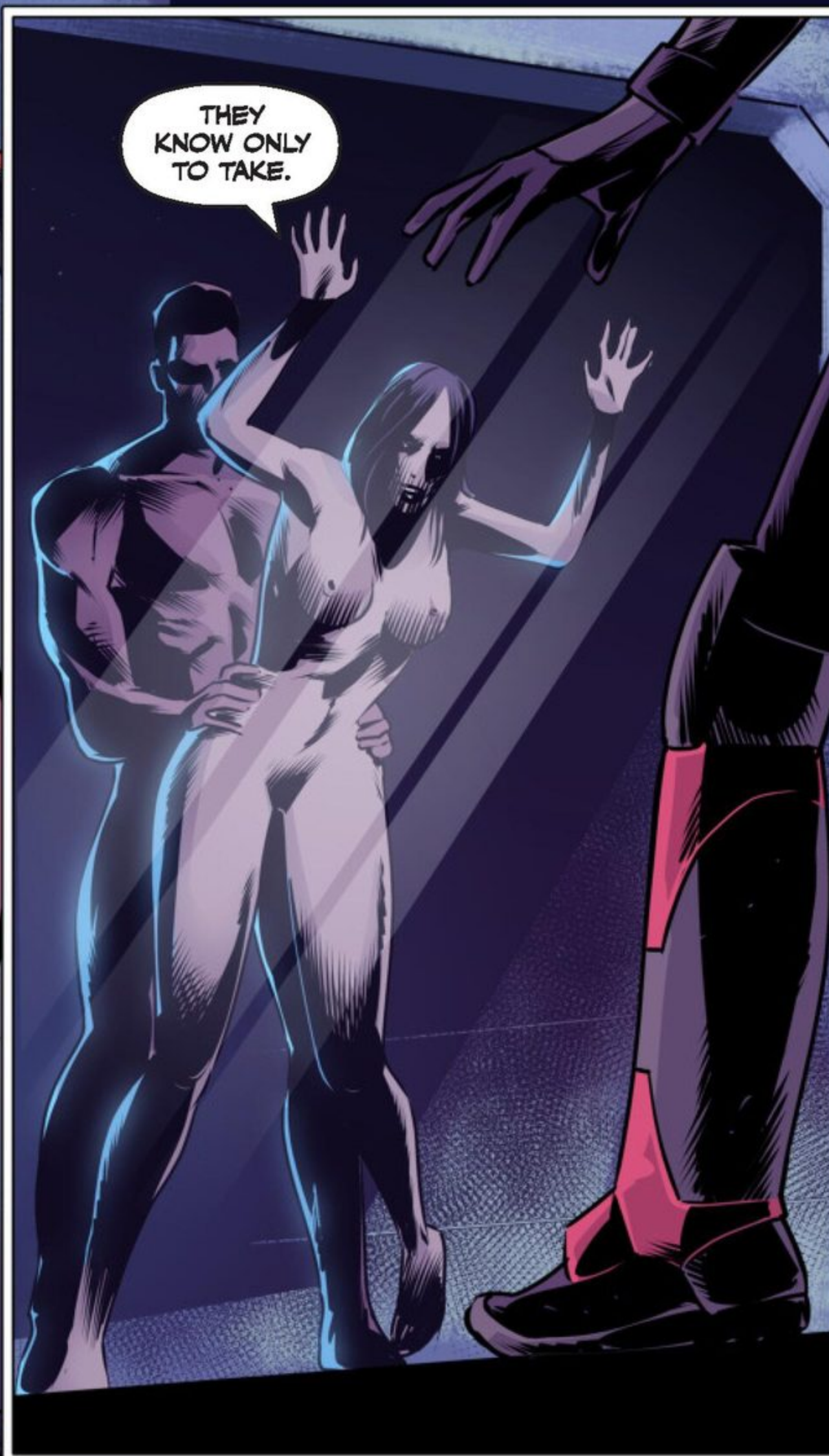
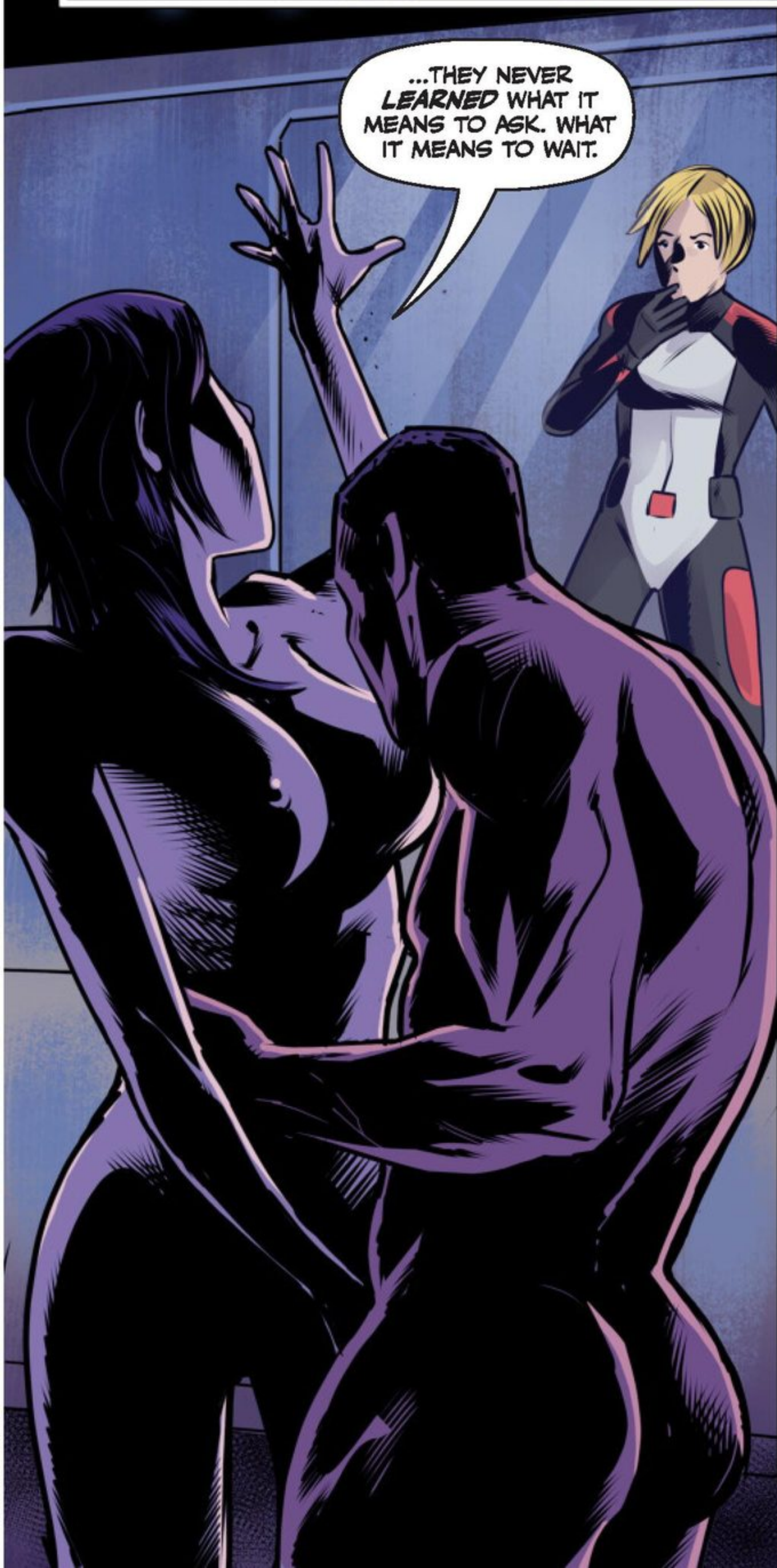
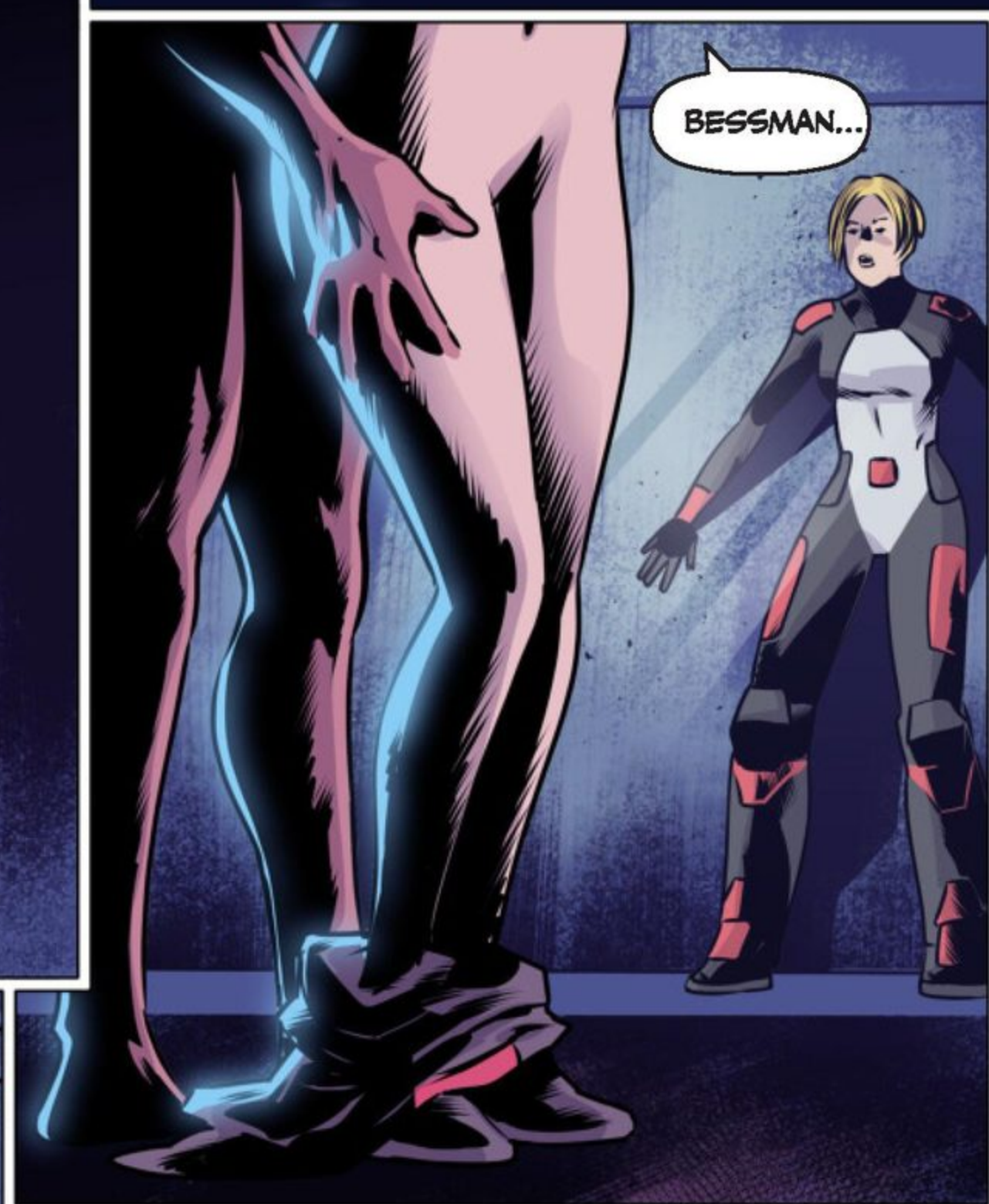
THEY AREN'T EVEN FROM HERE. THEY'RE FROM *ANOTHER UNIVERSE*. ONE THAT WHEN THEY WENT EXPLORING, THEY FOUND... *NOTHING*.

CAN YOU IMAGINE? SEARCHING AN ENTIRE UNIVERSE FOR LIFE...

AND FINDING YOU ARE *COMPLETELY* AND *ENTIRELY* ALONE?











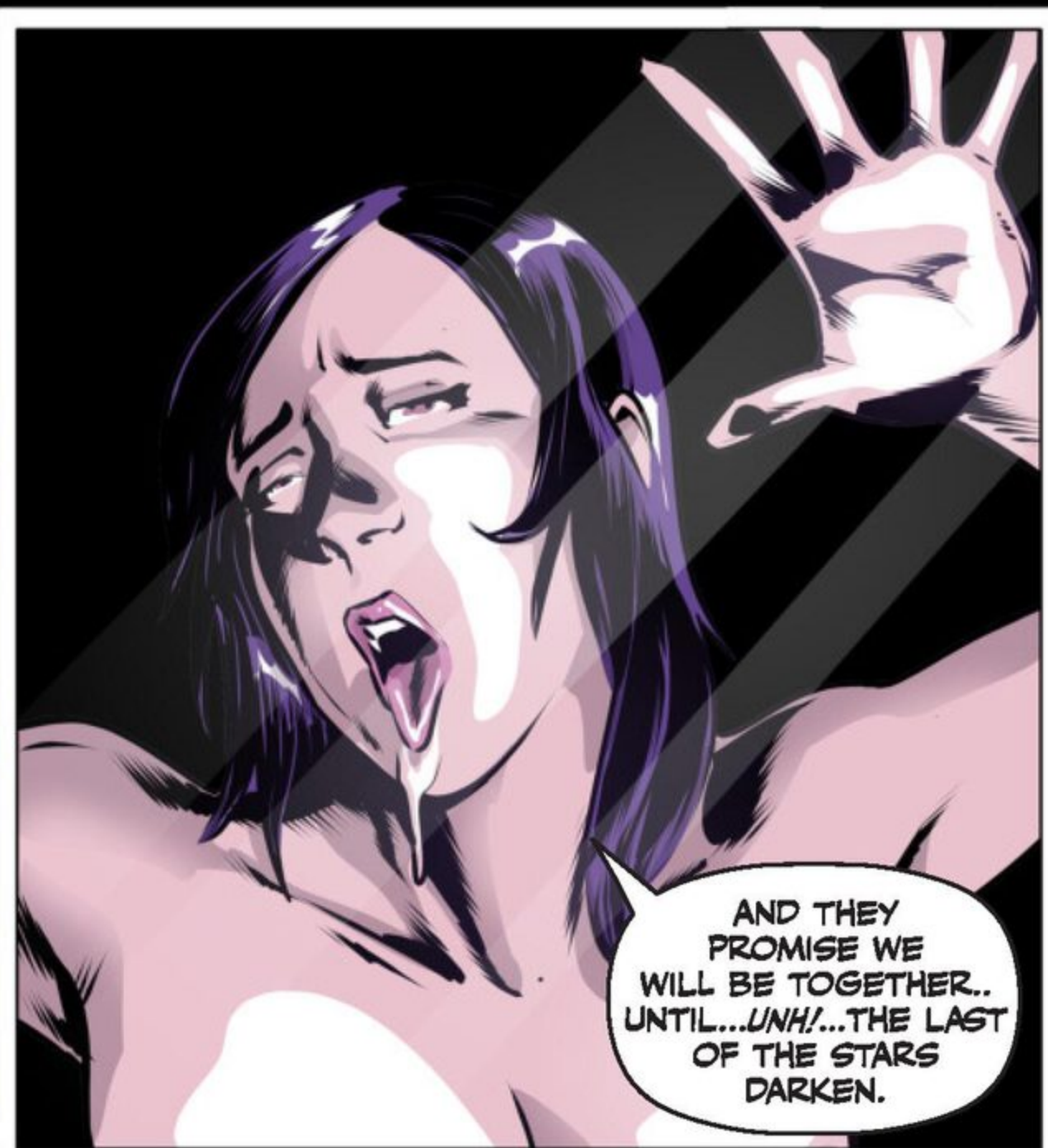
AND, UNH...  
TAKE!



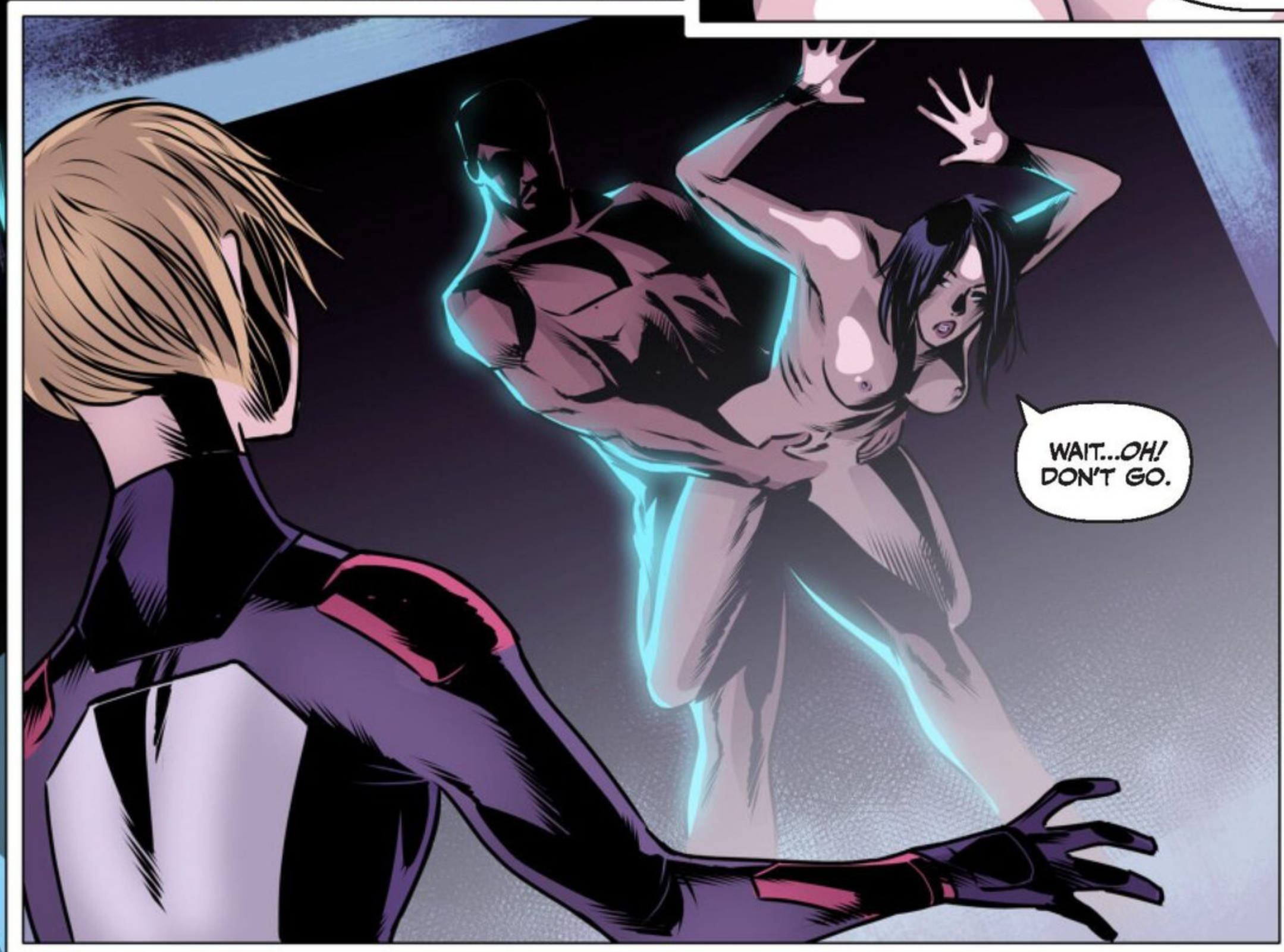


LOOK, HE'S  
HERE...MMN...MY EX-  
HUSBAND IS HERE,  
BESSMAN.

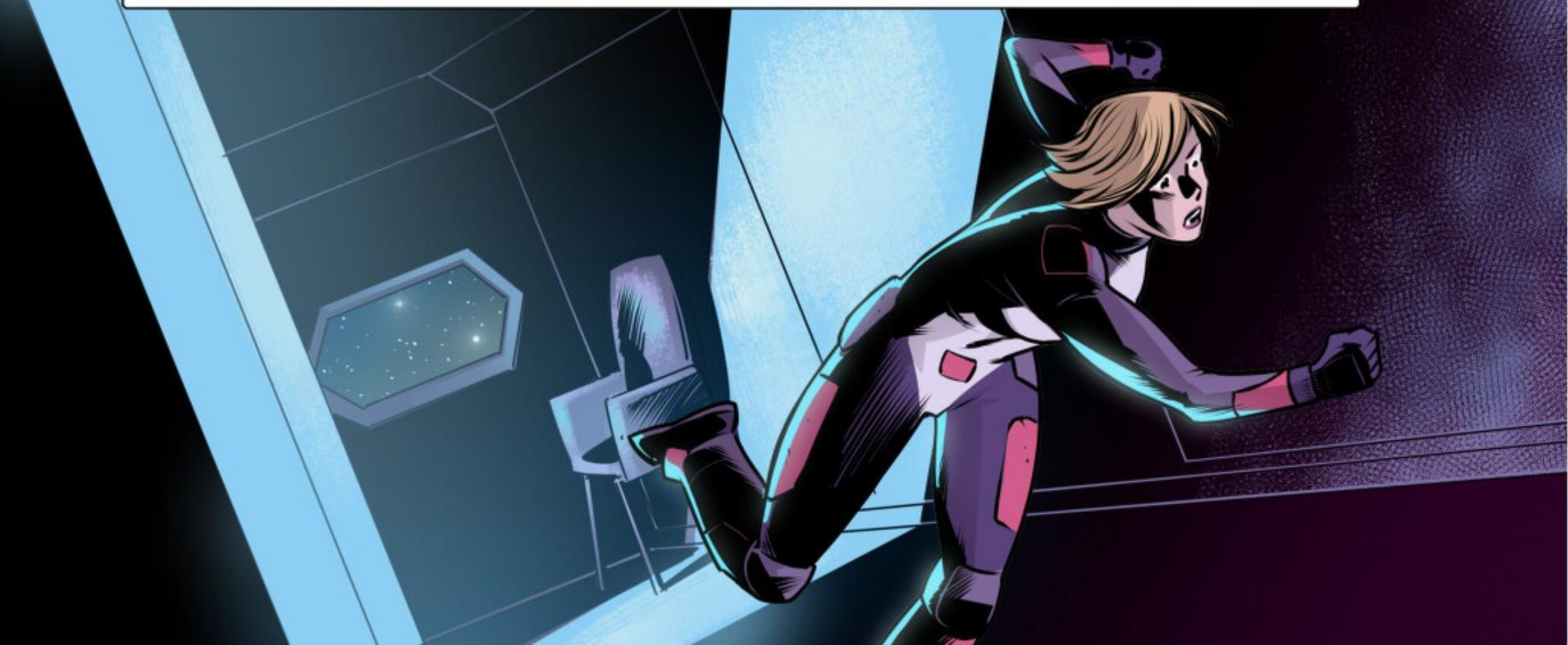
EVERYONE  
THEY...UNGH...TAKE  
IS HERE.



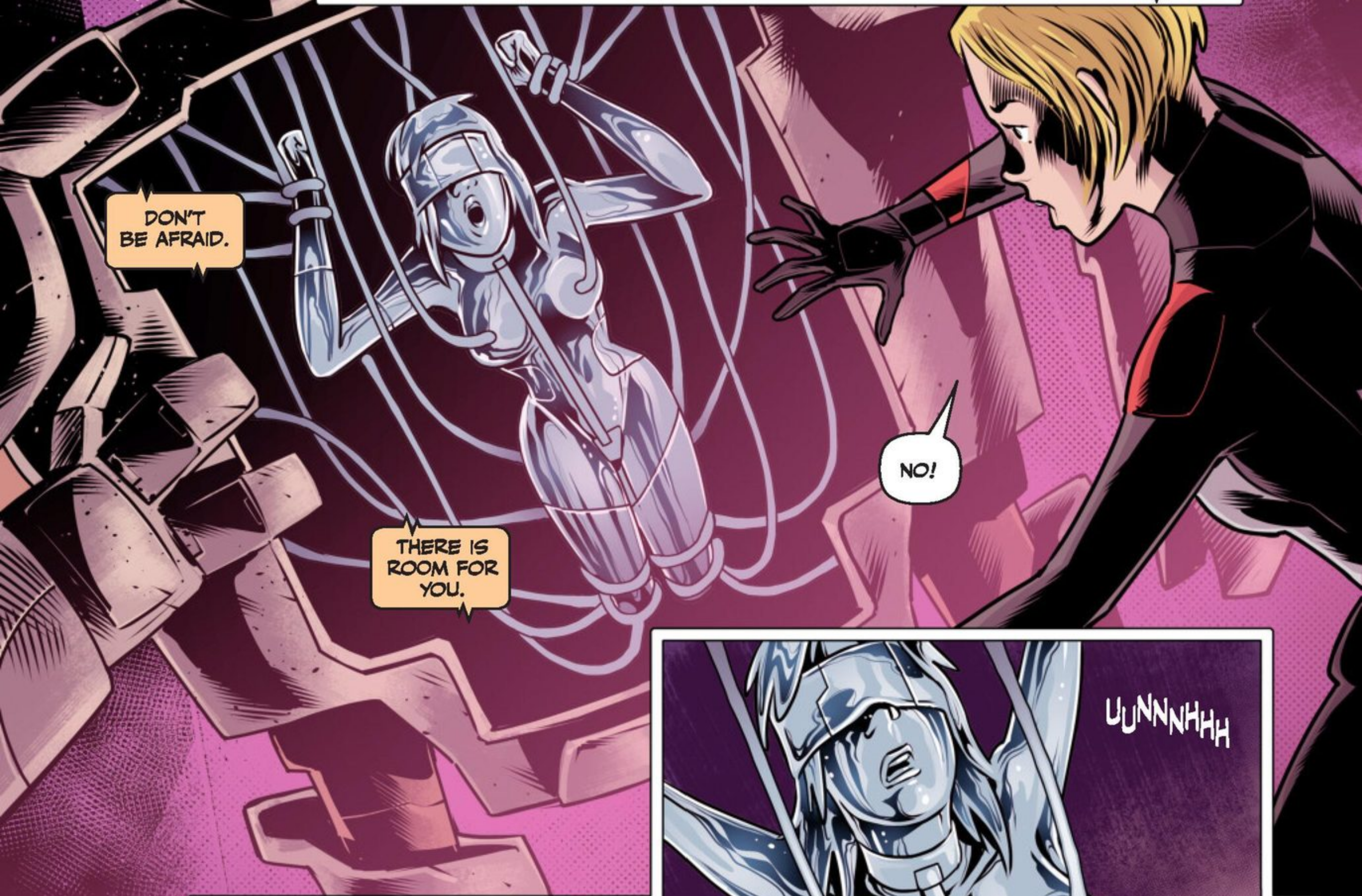
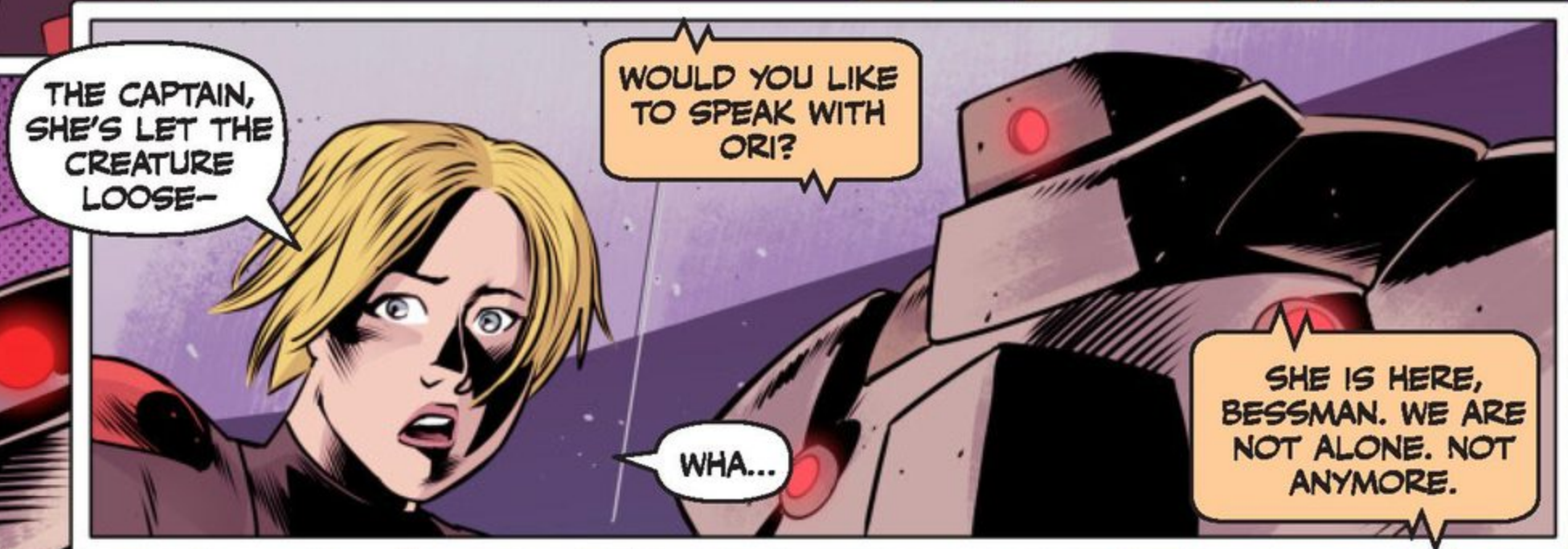
AND THEY  
PROMISE WE  
WILL BE TOGETHER..  
UNTIL...UNH!...THE LAST  
OF THE STARS  
DARKEN.



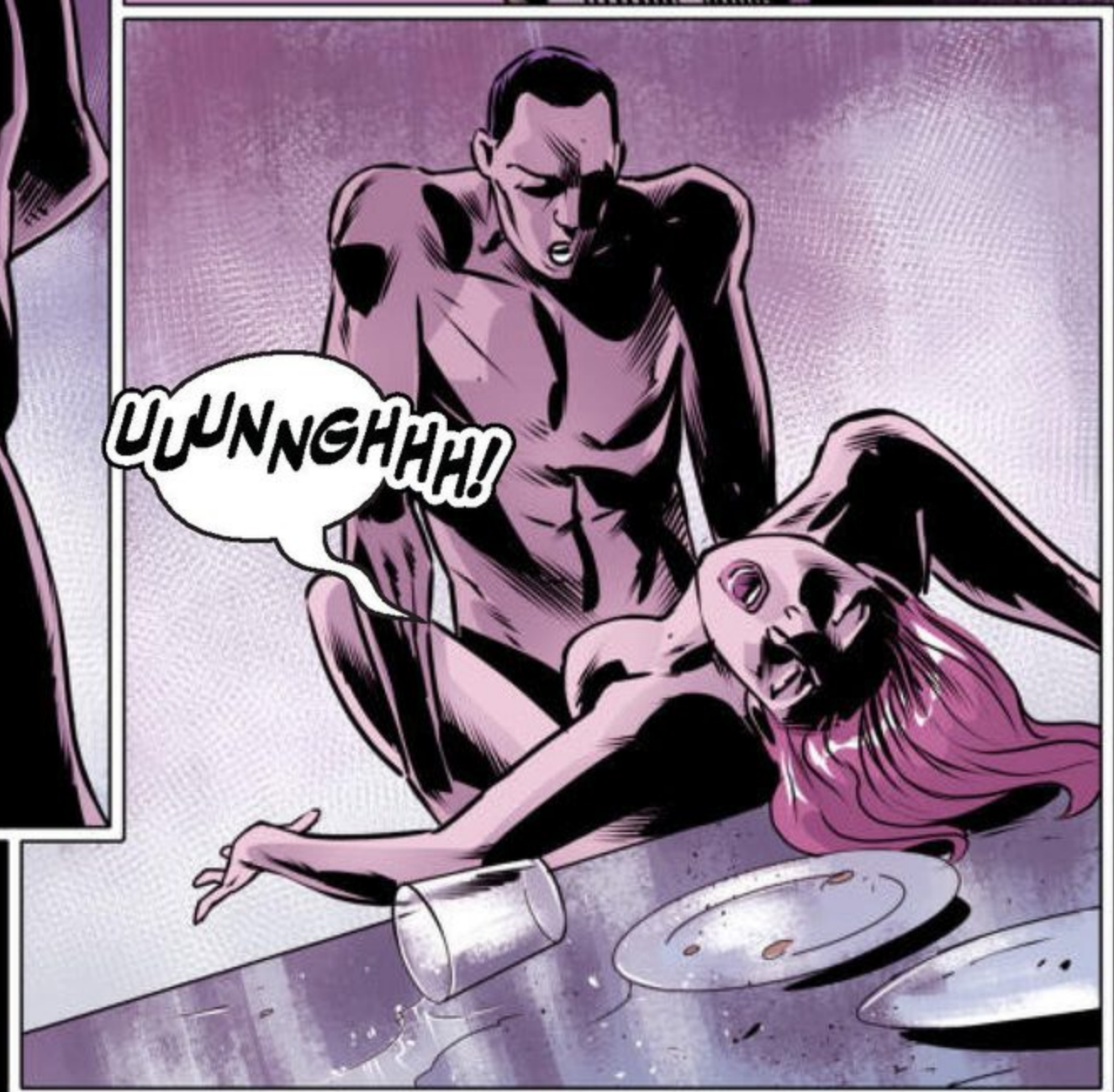
WAIT...OH!  
DON'T GO.







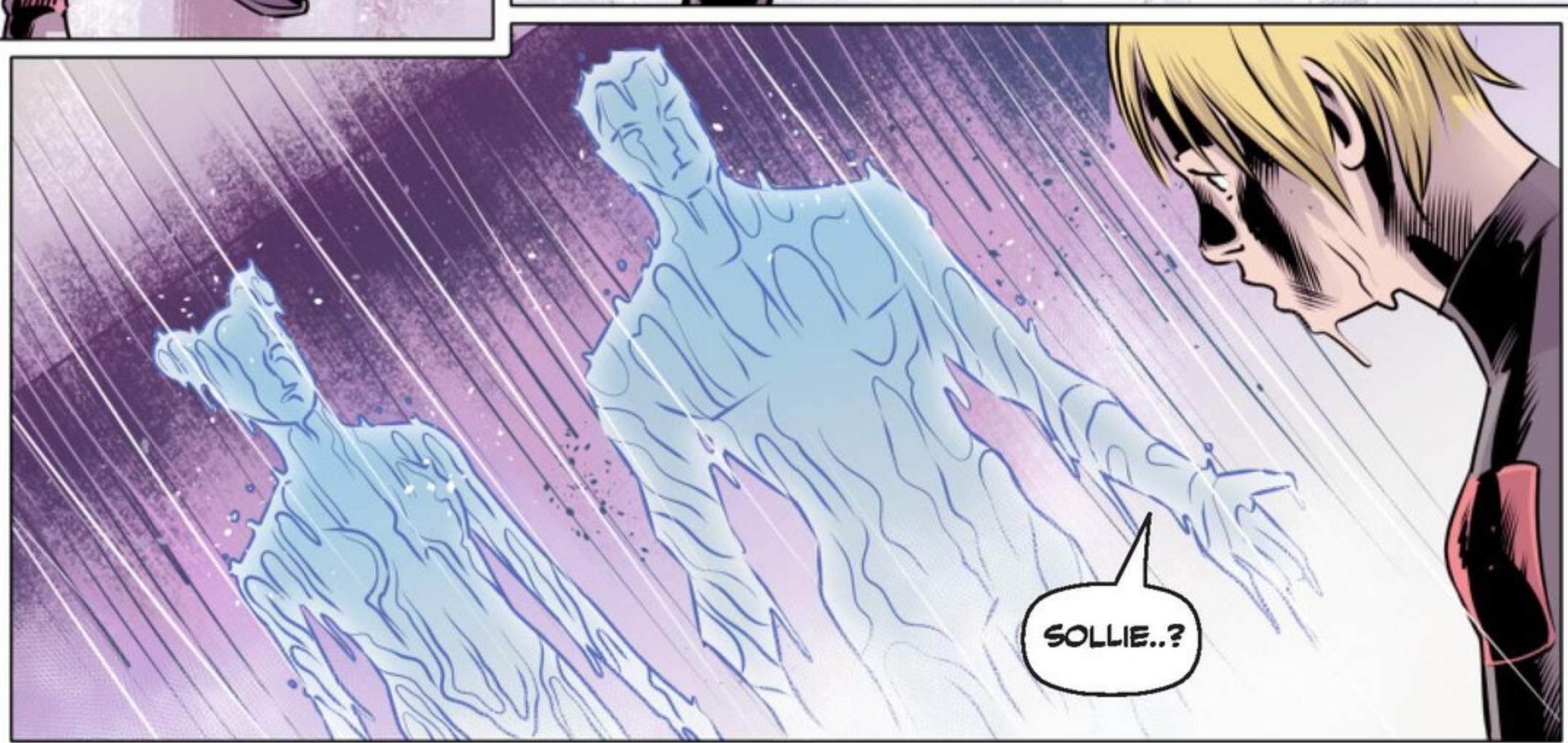








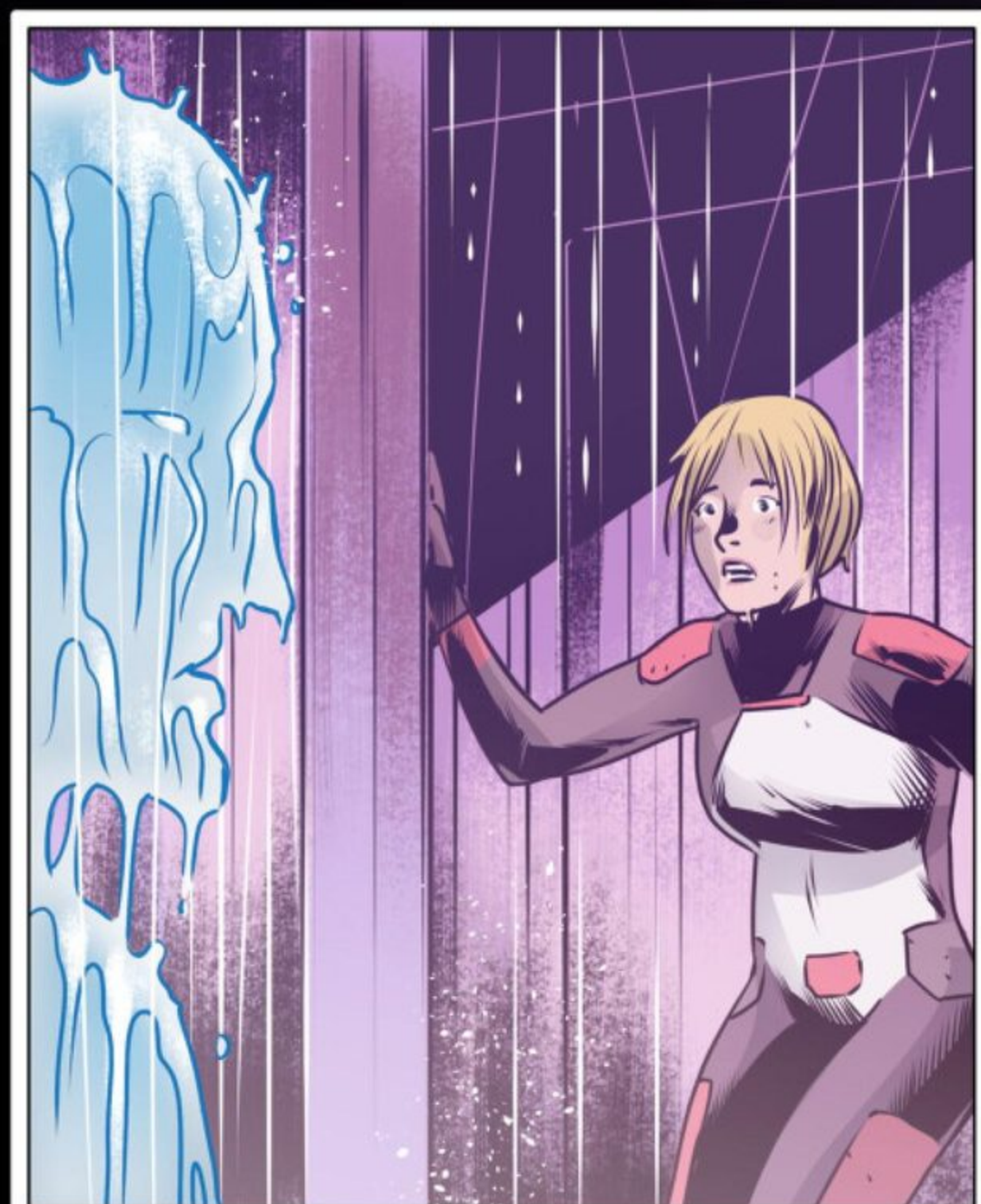
IT...IT'S  
RAINING?



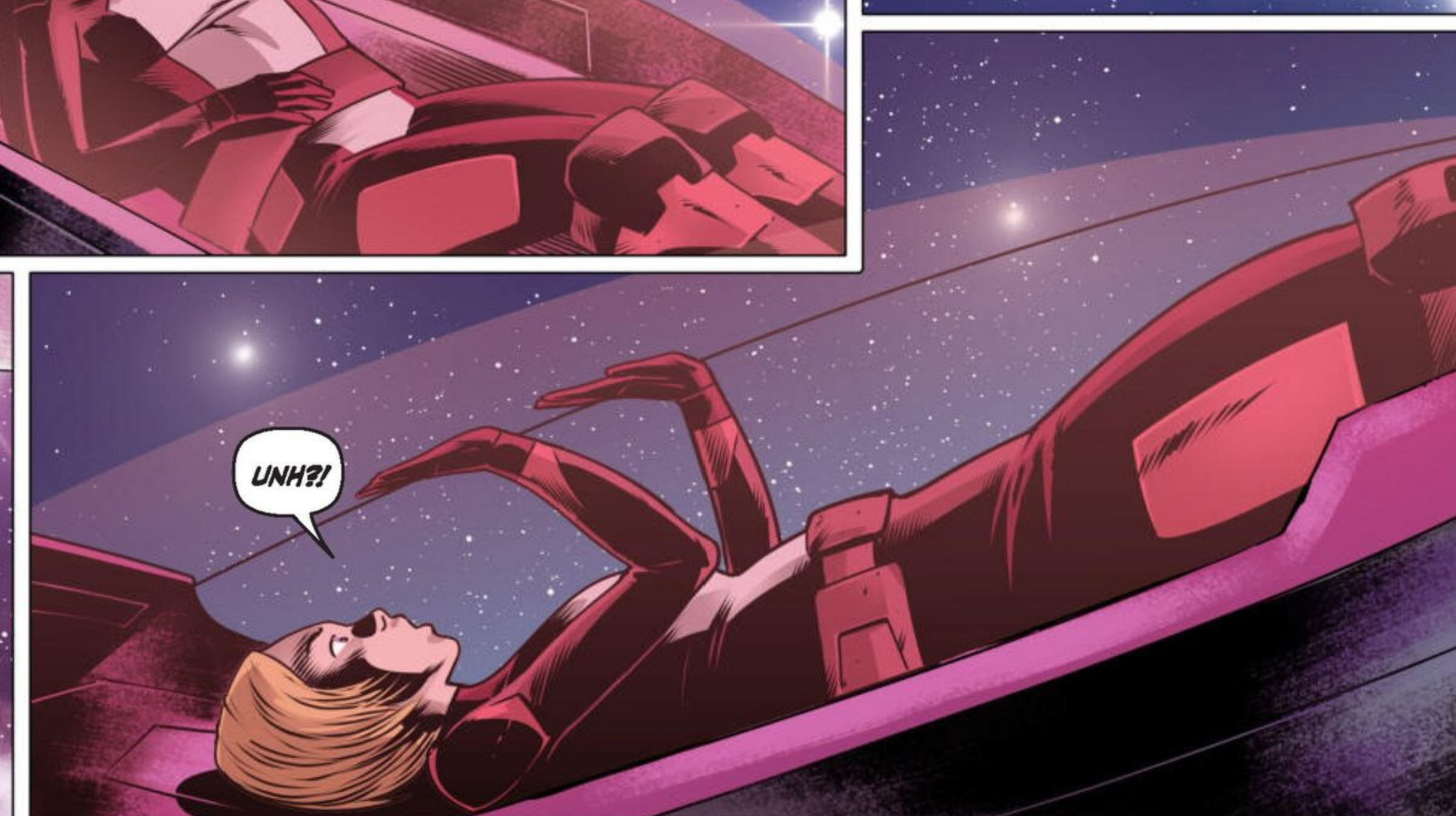
SOLLIE..?



THE RAIN...  
FEEL IT WITH  
US...











...GETTING  
TIGHTER!

CAN'T---

--BREATHE...





GASP

TAKE IT SLOWLY, MS. BESSMAN.



YOU WERE DRIFTING FOR DAYS BEFORE WE FOUND YOU.

WHERE AM I?

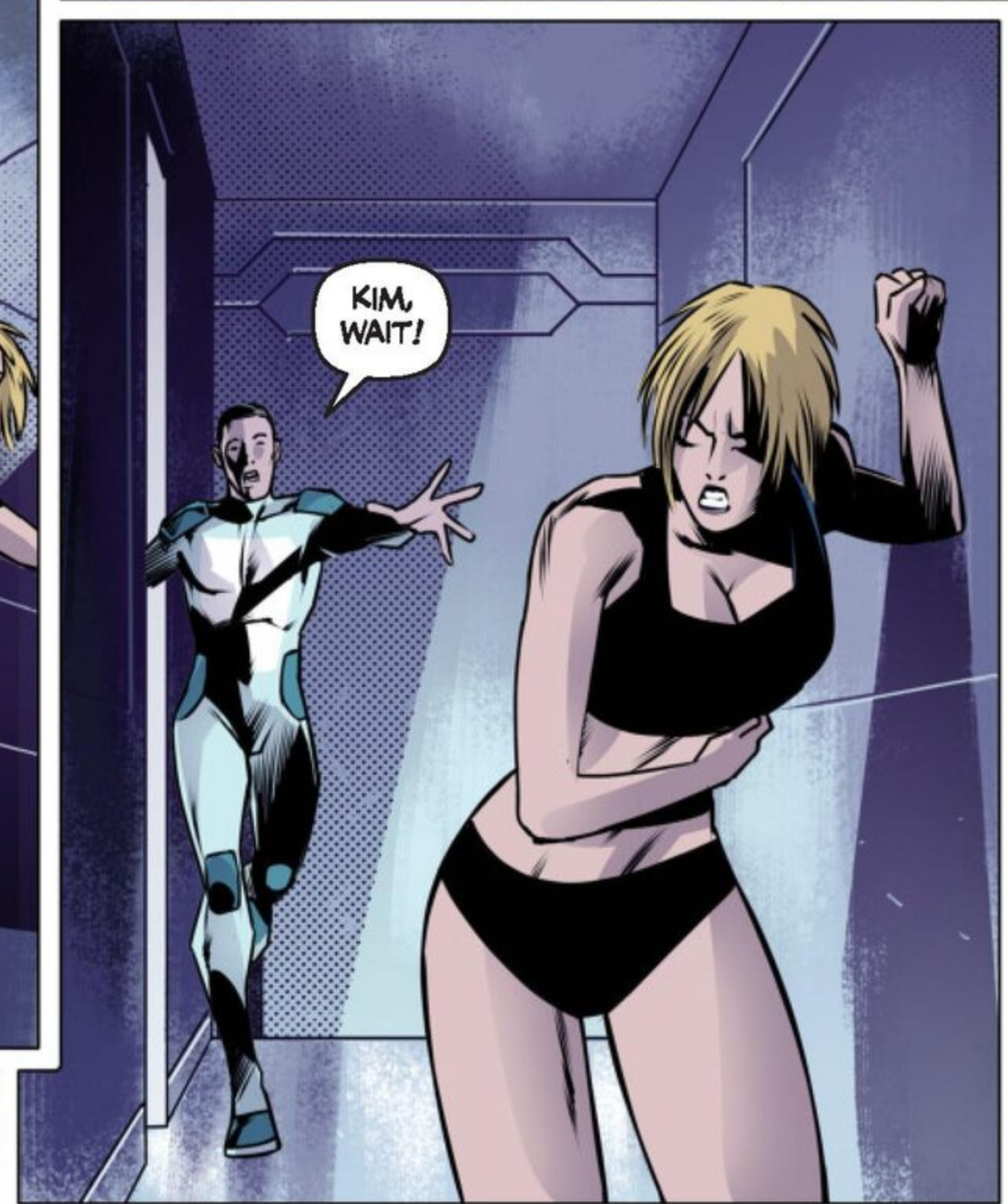
"YOU ARE ON THE U.S. KRAKEN. THERE ISN'T A PLACE SAFER, I PROMISE. NOW..."

...YOUR POD'S REGISTERED TO THE ECLIPSE. WE'RE LOOKING FOR IT NOW, BUT IT *SEEMS* TO HAVE GONE WELL OFF COURSE."



WE HAVE SHIPS LOOKING FOR IT NOW. COULD YOU HELP...?

NO...STOP! DON'T LOOK. WE HAVE TO STAY...



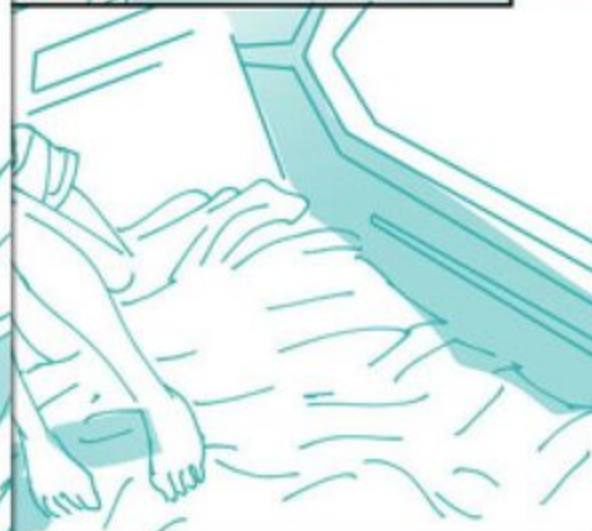
KIM, WAIT!







# ROUGHS BY EMILIO





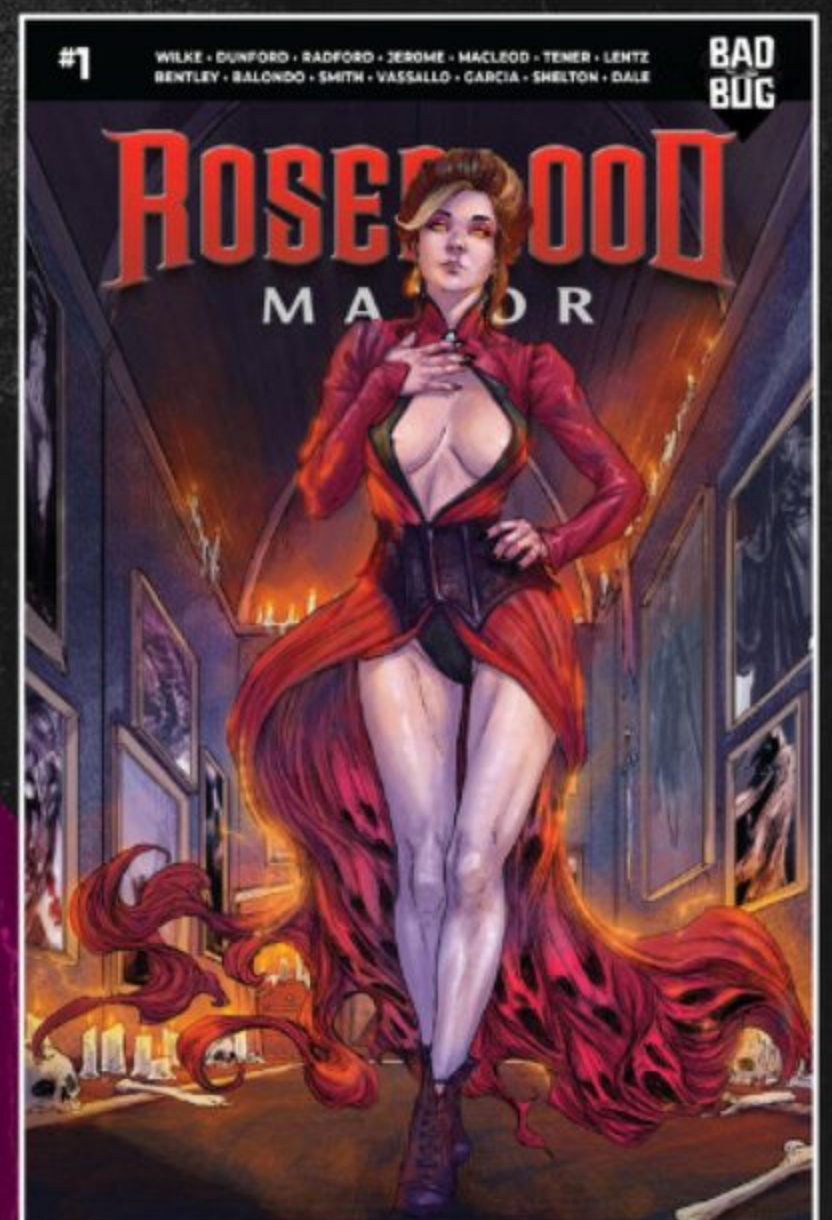
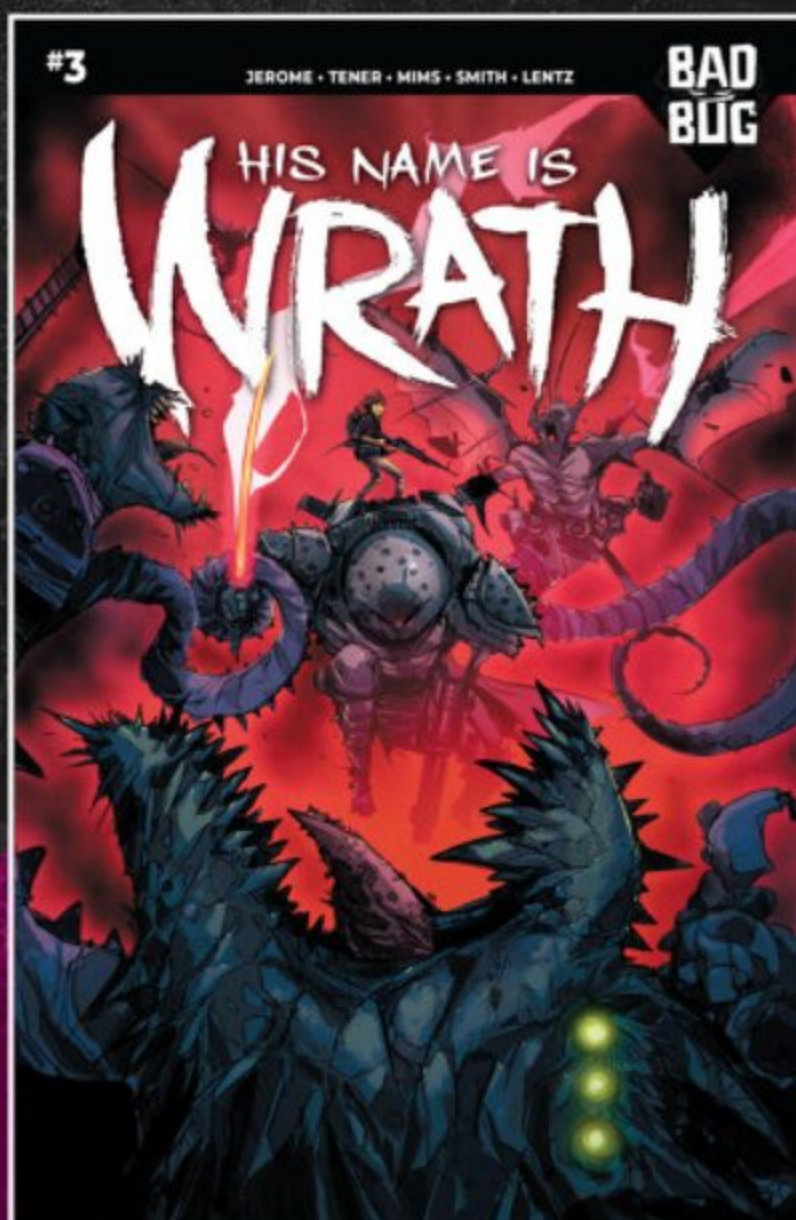
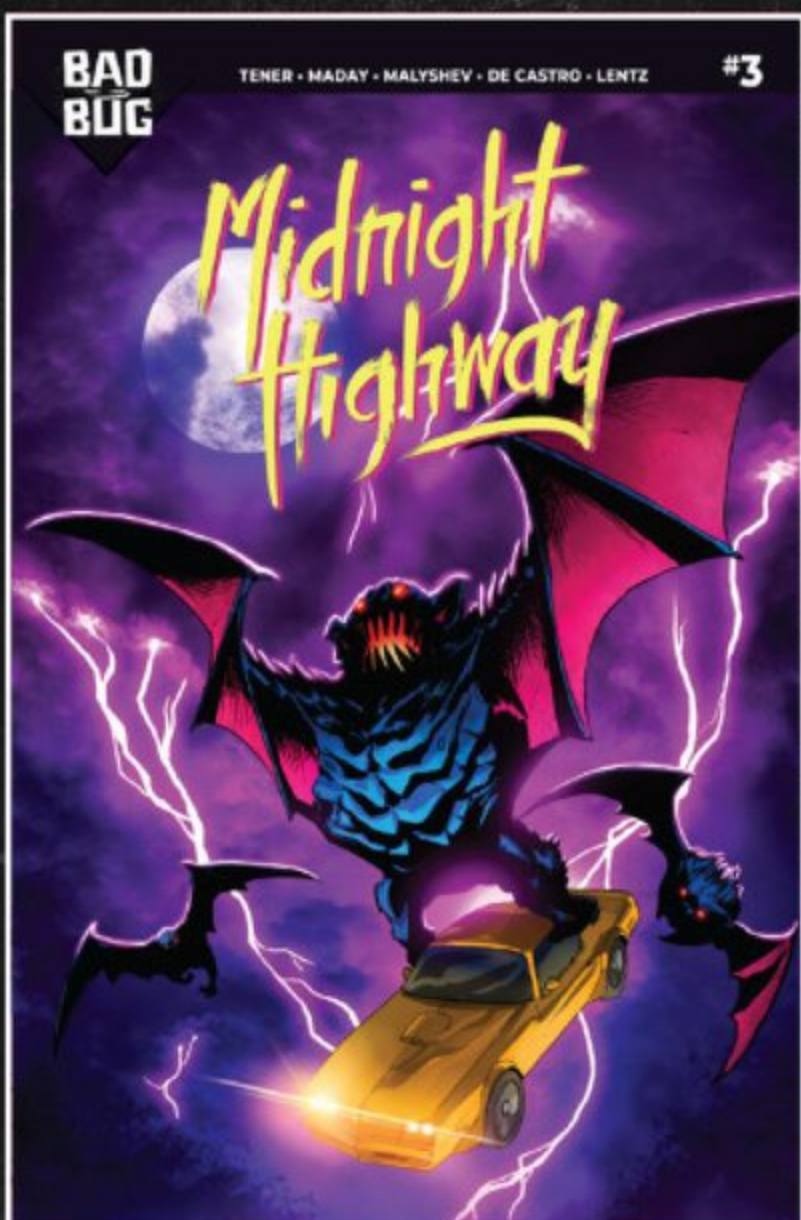
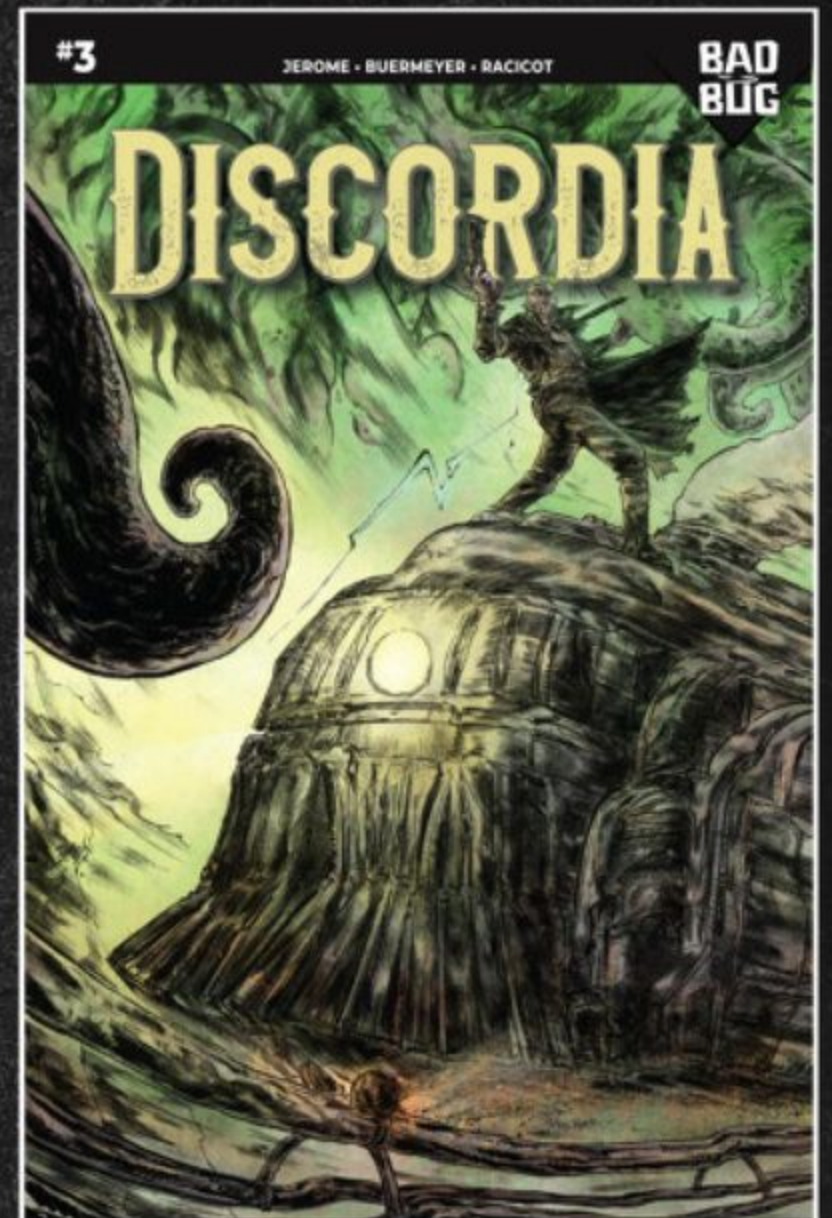
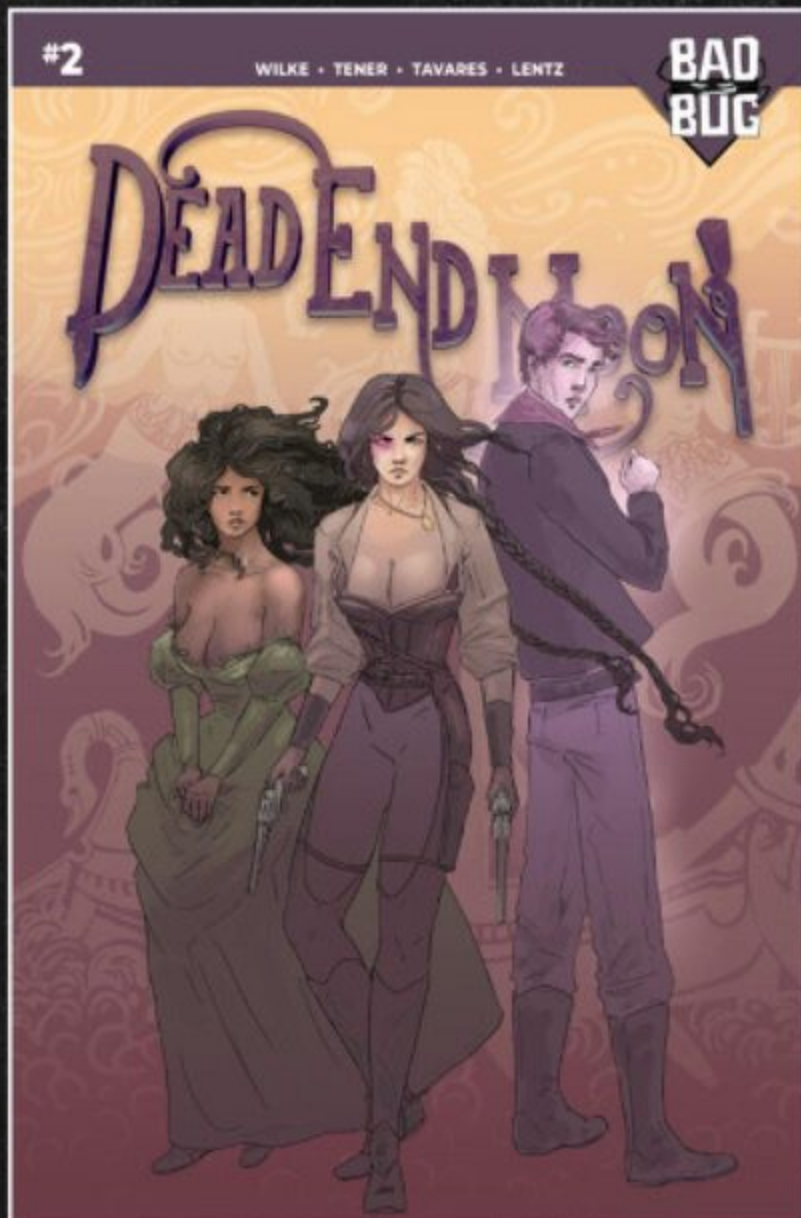


# FLICKERING LIGHTS



# BAD BUG

FOR A GOOD TIME, GO TO  
[WWW.BADBUGMEDIA.COM](http://WWW.BADBUGMEDIA.COM)

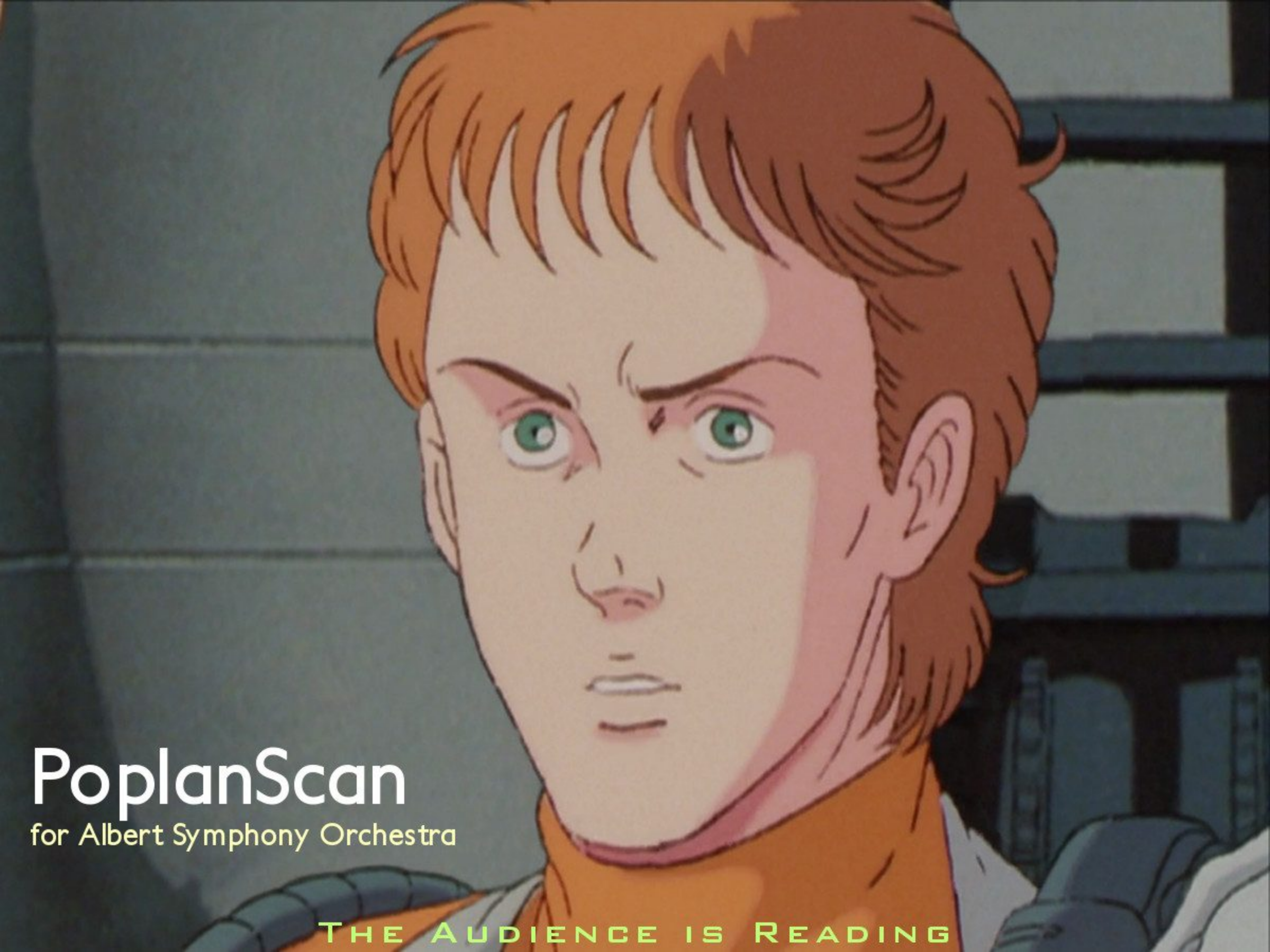




**BAD  
BIG**

A stylized graphic featuring the words "BAD" and "BIG" in large, bold, white, blocky capital letters with black outlines. The letters are arranged in two rows. Behind the text is a dark, stylized character with a wide, toothy grin, showing sharp teeth. The character's arms are visible, holding the sides of the text. The background is dark with swirling, smoky patterns and a starburst effect in the bottom right corner.





# PoplanScan

for Albert Symphony Orchestra

THE AUDIENCE IS READING